Just CrossStitch 2004 Special Christmas Issue

Christmas Ornaments

75 Celebrate

Christmas with Your Favorite Designers:

- Blackbird Designs
- Cross-Eyed Cricket
- Full Circle Designs
- Heart In Hand Needleart
- Homespun Elegance
- Lizzie*Kate
- Mosey 'n Me
- Sisters and Best Friends
- The Sweetheart Tree™
- The Victoria Sampler

AND MORE!

Holiday 2004 US $6.99 CN $8.99

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Editor's Note

Lorna Reeves

Editor

I am delighted to share with you this year's special holiday issue, which is filled with beautiful ornaments from 75 talented designers, presented alphabetically by design company. You will find favorite needlework artists who have been designing counted cross stitch for decades, as well as wonderful new designers with whom you must become acquainted. To see more of these needleartists' work, I encourage you to check out each designer's website or to visit your local needlework shop.

Besides stitching, one of my favorite things to do is to bake. I like experimenting and creating my own recipes. Below is one that is ideal for Christmas morning, although my husband even enjoys eating these muffins for an afternoon snack at any time of the year.

Blueberry Muffins

2 c. biscuit baking mix (such as Pioneer® or Bisquick®)
¾ c. sugar
1 c. sour cream
2 large eggs, beaten
3 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 c. fresh or frozen blueberries
3 Tbsp. sour cream
3 Tbsp. brown sugar
½ c. shredded coconut
⅓ c. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large mixing bowl, combine baking mix and sugar; stir.

In a smaller bowl, combine 1 cup sour cream, eggs, butter, and vanilla extract; stir. Add to dry ingredients, stirring just until combined.

Wash blueberries and pat dry. Add to batter; gently fold in. Spoon batter into 12 greased muffin cups.

In a small bowl, combine the 3 tablespoons sour cream, brown sugar, shredded coconut, and pecans; stir. Spoon on top of muffin batter.

Bake for 18–20 minutes. Turn off oven and allow muffins to remain in oven another 10 minutes.

Makes 12 muffins.

May your holidays be filled with many blessings and may you share those blessings with others!

Lorna Reeves

For there is born to you this day
in the city of David a Savior,
who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11 (NKJV)

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5

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

Oh, what fun the Christmas holidays bring! Down come the subdued brown and orange decorations of Thanksgiving, and up go the splendiferous, colorful trimmings of the Yuletide season. Furniture is rearranged and draperies are pulled open to allow the beloved Christmas tree to take center stage in a wonderland of decorations. In one home, a tree that stretches from floor to ceiling might take full command of a room. Handmade ornaments and treasured mementos dangle sweetly from its evergreen limbs, softly illuminated by a kaleidoscope of colored bulbs. In another home, a tree might reflect a more refined aesthetic: coordinating glass bulbs and themed ornaments complement a symmetrical, well-balanced tree. Whether your taste in trees leans toward the traditional or the contemporary, within these pages you're sure to find an ornament that will perfectly suit your decorating philosophy.

1. Water's Edge
   O Christmas Tree
2. Brown House Studio
   Folk Art Topiary
3. Monsterbubbles
   Mele Kalikimaka
4. Ursula Michael Designs
   Cat in Window
5. Trail Creek Farm
   Joyous
6. Chessie & Me
   Candy-Cane Cat

1
2
3
I Saw
three ships
come
sailing
in
Jet
5
Love
6

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

Christmas celebrations provide a veritable feast for our senses! Twinkling, colored lights dazzle our eyes; yummy cakes, sweet candies, and crunchy nuts delight our tongues; evergreens, spiced teas, and holiday candles release a soft perfume that beguiles our noses; Christmas carols, jingle bells, and the laughter of excited children provide welcome music to our ears; and sleek foil and crisp wrapping paper crinkle under our fingers as we unwrap a gift to discover a special treasure hidden inside. So much activity takes place within such a short period of time! Yet it is in the quiet moments interspersed in the festive activities that we stop and reflect upon the sentiments, rather than the sensations, that rest at the heart of our Christmas celebration.

1. Designs From Margret Lee
   Together at Christmas
2. Charland Designs Inc.
   Love Heart Ornament
3. Scandinavian Stitches
   Norwegian Ornament
4. Erica Michaels Designs
   Joy
5. Fancy Work
   I Saw Three Ships
6. Full Circle Designs
   Perfect Gifts
7. Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches
   Love...Was Born at Christmas

1
2
christmas is family·pr
·wreath·toys·peace·stockings·angel·
hts·snowflake·reindeer·trien
pe·santa···but the
s is love···heart of
···hear·joy·presents·fathe
···eas·mistletoe·fa
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·ry·frost·nativity·sta
father·christmas·trees·ho
s·is·two
MER
CHRIS
20
5
6
7
joy

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

The glorious shades of Christmas red bring with them such splendid delights: cranberries threaded on string and wound 'round a Christmas tree; shiny berries on a holly bush, peeking through soft tufts of snow; candied cherries in fruitcakes mingling with sweet spices and crunchy walnuts; or the bright, rosy cheeks of a little one who has just come in from playing in the crisp winter air. Who can deny that a mere glimpse of this seasonal color can conjure up a special memory from a Christmas past that brings a smile to our faces and joy to our hearts? How wonderful that feeling is when we can stop in our tracks amidst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and reflect upon the joy, peace, and love that is the true meaning of Christmas!

1. Periwinkle Promises
   Christmas Ornament 2004
2. Charlotte's Web Needlework
   The Heart of Christmas
3. Nordic Needle, Inc.
   Holiday Hardanger Ornament
4. DebBee's Designs
   Hardanger Snowflake Ornament
5. From Nan's Hand
   Berries in Snow
6. The Stitchworks, Ltd.
   Christmas Cross
7. NeedlePlay Needlework Designs
   Joy of the Holidays
8. M Designs
   Peace Tree

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7
8
Home
Sweet
Home
in a stable

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

You know the holiday season has arrived when, like magic, gaily colored decorations appear to adorn lampposts, doors, and windows of our homes, shops, and neighborhoods. It wasn't until well into the twentieth century, however, that red and green became the unofficial colors of Christmas. So, keep in mind that there is no rule that states that your holiday decorations can't depart from the usual color scheme! Whether your preference is for bold primary colors or muted pastels, why not regard Christmas as a time to discover the colors that are closest to your heart? Teal, lavender, magenta, light blue, and mint green are perfectly suited to serve as Christmas colors if they match the colors of your imagination. Dazzle your family and friends with decorations that present a new interpretation of Christmas colors and recast old traditions in a new hue.

1. Charlette's Collectibles
   Serenity
2. Amaryllis Artworks
   Pansy
3. Sisters & Best Friends
   Peace
4. Of Female Worth
   Christmas Elegance
5. Cross-Eyed Cricket Inc.
   Gabby's Angel
6. Marie's Garden
   Grapes Christmas Ornament
7. The Flower Thread Company
   Hardanger Nativity Ornament
8. Shepherd's Bush Printworks
   In a Stable

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merry Christmas Zara
20 Love, 03 Grandma
6
7

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

If you think of the nativity scene, familiar images spring to mind: Mary and Joseph attend the baby Jesus, surrounded by a host of gentle animals. A lamb rests on the ground beneath their feet, and three wise men approach from the East with camels. The donkey appears most regularly in the nativity scene, because its presence at Jesus' birth suggests that even the humblest of animals recognized the newborn Son of God and Prince of Peace. It is said that the donkey and ox warmed the baby Jesus with their breath as the infant lay in a straw-filled manger on the cold night of his birth. Medieval artists added other symbolic animals and flowers to the nativity scene, and contemporary times have associated even more animals and flowers with the Christmas celebration. Each in its own way, however, reminds us of the special gift that is the reason for our Christmas celebration.

1. Moss Creek Designs, Inc.
   Julbock Christmas Pocket
2. Carriage House Samplings
   Running Stag
3. Serendipity Designs
   The Crystal Forest
4. From Merry's Heart
   Merry Christmas
5. Elizabeth's Designs
   Christmas Jewels
6. Thistle Threads
   A Tiny German Folk Slipper
7. JBW Designs
   Prancer
8. Threads Through Time
   Peace on Earth

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NOEL
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Don't
6
Noel
2004
7

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

While many people associate reindeer with Christmas, don't forget that birds are well represented in much of our holiday lore. One special story tells of a small brown bird that perched upon a beam in the stable in Bethlehem to watch people from many lands come with gifts for the newborn Christ child. Another legend tells us that good luck, health, and prosperity will come to homes that have a Christmas tree in which a bird has built a nest. And in "The Twelve Days of Christmas," we sing of a partridge, turtledoves, French hens, calling birds, geese, and swans—nary a reindeer is mentioned! Add a pretty touch to your tree with a stitched bird ornament that blends the beauty of nature's winged creatures with the unique charm of your own handwork.

1. La-D-Da
   Snow Bird
2. Brittercup Designs
   Noel Birdhouse
3. Jemini Designs
   Herald the Heron
4. The Victoria Sampler
   Cardinal Snowflake
5. Little By Little Design Co.
   Don't Peek
6. Blackbird Designs
   Christmas Ornament 2004
7. Little House Needleworks
   Woodland Snowfall
8. Kitty & Me Country Crafts
   Christmas Chickadee

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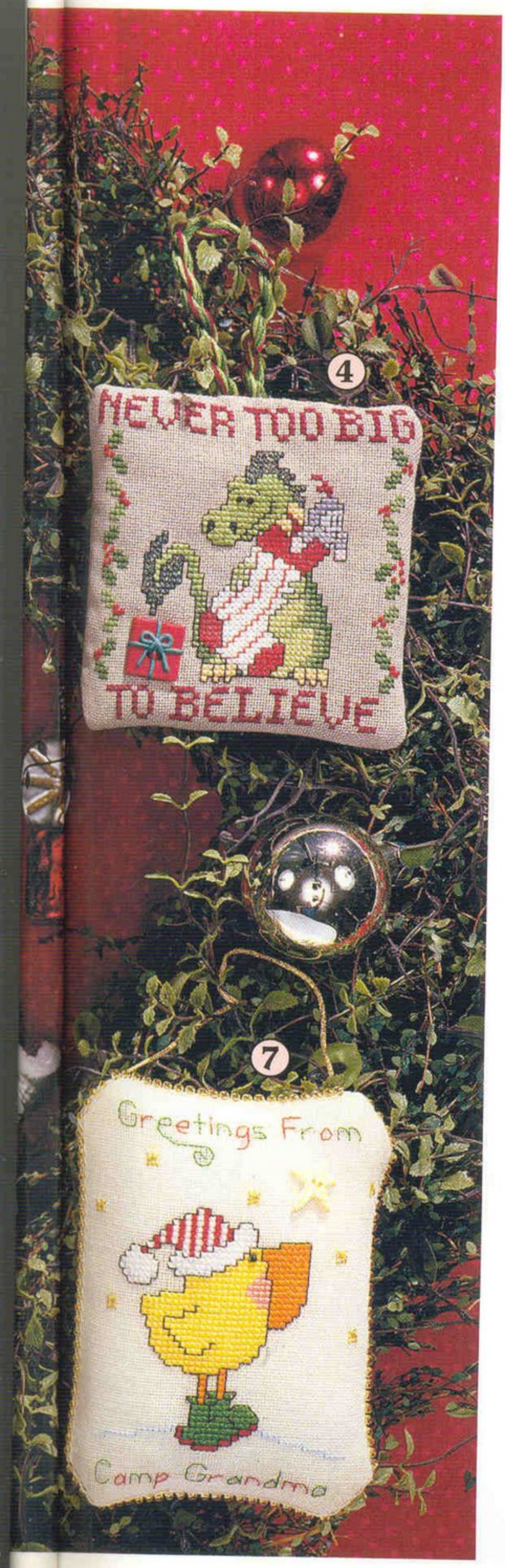
6
2004
JOYFUL
CHRISTMAS



2004
Christmas Ornaments Collection

Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Père Noël, Saint Nicolas, Sinterklaas, Weihnachtsmann: so many names exist for that fellow that we, in America, call Santa Claus. The first description of the "jolly old elf" with twinkling eyes and a belly that shook like a "bowl full of jelly" came from the 1822 poem, "A Visit From Saint Nicholas." Our Santa Claus, however, takes slightly different forms in other countries. His English counterpart is little bit thinner with a longer flowing beard, while his Russian incarnation is recognized by his red cape and bishop's hat. Whether "Santa" comes in through the chimney and leaves toys in a stocking or walks in through the door to place treats in wooden shoes, there's no mistaking the special role this beloved gentleman plays in holiday celebrations the world over. And you're never too old, or too big, to believe in Santa!

1. The Stitching Company, Inc.
   Ho-Ho-Ho-Ho Box
2. Mosey 'N Me
   Santa's Trimmings
3. HeartStrings/
   The Artists Collection
   Celestial Santa
4. Dragon Dreams
   Never Too Big
5. Homespun Elegance Ltd.
   Joyful Santa
6. The Vermillion Stitchery
   A Joyful Christmas
7. Designs by Gloria and Pat, Inc.
   Greetings From Camp Grandma

1
2
4
5
Merry Christmas
ABCD
EFGH
IJK
LMN
OPQRS
TUVWXYZ

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

Those of us who love the muted color palette of early American samplers often take inspiration from the life lessons demonstrated by the women who made them. One such lesson is that Christmas gifts need not be elaborate to be meaningful. For example, in *By the Shores of Silver Lake*, Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote of her family's life in the unsettled Dakota Territory. Despite their meager possessions, the Ingalls girls created special Christmas gifts from the odds and ends available to them: for Pa, knitted socks and a necktie made from a scrap piece of silk; for Ma, an apron made from old calico curtains and a handkerchief cut from a scrap of muslin that Mary hemmed with "fine stitches"; for baby Grace, a hand-made jacket lined with material that once had been part of Ma's finest dress. What was true of a Christmas in nineteenth-century pioneer America remains true today: a simple gift made with love and by hand is the most special gift one can give *or* receive.

1. The Samplar Workes
   Quaker Motif Ornament
2. With My Needle
   Christmas Swan Needlebook
3. Cindy Valentine Designs
   Christmas Poinsettias
4. The Workbasket
   A Quaker Gift
5. The Sweetheart Tree™
   Merry Christmas Bellpull Ornament
6. Handwork
   Peace for the Children

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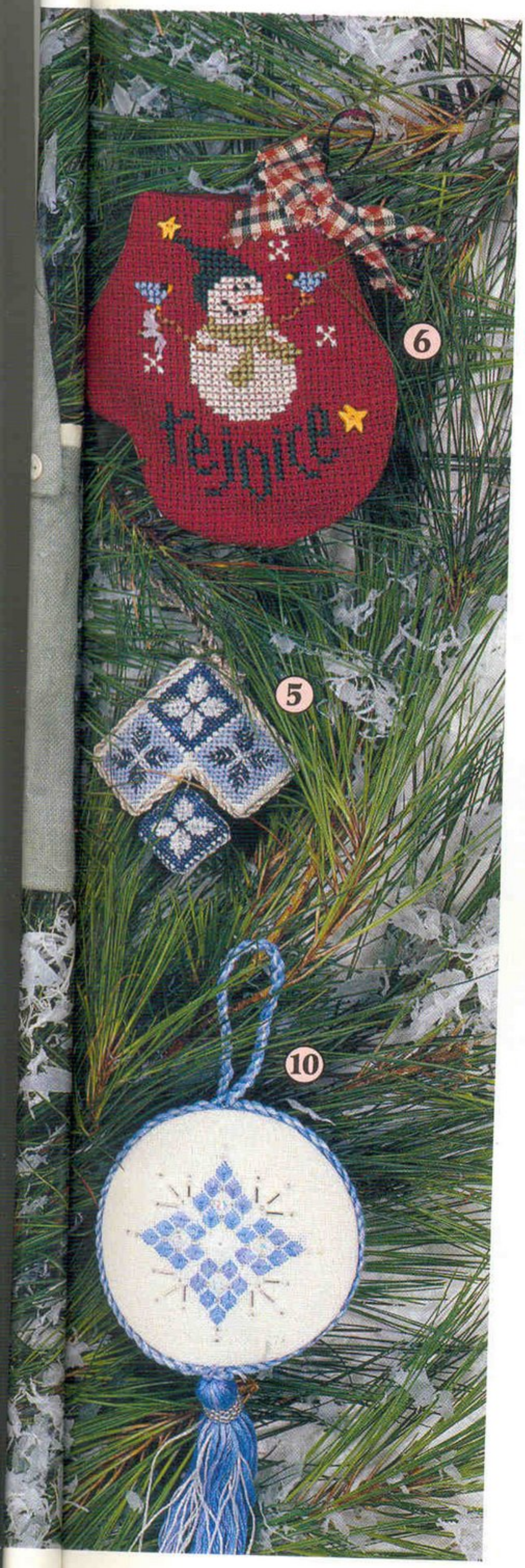
8
9
Peace
A Gift from my Heart
Happy Holidays
SNOW
SNOW
SNOW
SNOW



2004
Christmas Ornaments Collection

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! Can you think of a more beautiful sight than the snow-capped trees of a winter wonderland? Children bundle up in their warm winter coats, don mittens and hats, and rush outside to conquer mounds of freshly fallen snow. One snowball at a time, a silly snowman emerges in a neighbor's yard to announce the start of winter fun. Footprints in the snow lead to the top of a nearby hill where neighborhood children–big and small–enjoy the exhilaration of the season's first sled ride. At the end of the day, snow angels might appear near the edge of a nearby house before young adventurers return to indoors to warm chilled noses and defrost cold fingers and toes. A steaming hot mug of cocoa hits the spot before tired souls happily retire to a warm, comfy bed.

1. Paw Printings
   Penguin Hugs
2. Brightneedle
   To Thee Love
3. Jeannette Douglas Designs
   Peace Christmas Ornament
4. SamSarah Design Studio/
   Just Another Button Company™
   A Gift From My Heart
5. Samplers and Such
   Winter Wheat
6. Lizzie*Kate
   Rejoice
7. Lynns Prints
   Bringing Home the Christmas Tree
8. Angel Stitchin
   Happy Holidays
9. Glory Bee
   Snow
10. Patricia Ann Designs
    Sapphire Star

1
Silent
Night
2
3
4
Tidings
of Joy
5
6
Silent Night
7

2004 Christmas Ornaments Collection

"Oh, there's no place like home for the holidays..."

Stitchers certainly understand the sentiment expressed in this beloved Christmas carol. After all, we've been stitching houses and homes into our embroideries for centuries! Home represents the place where we're most comfortable, where we can celebrate life with the people who are nearest and dearest to us. Houses become intertwined with our cherished memories; not only do they give us shelter, comfort, and protection, but they also provide a backdrop for celebrated moments like birthday parties and first steps. And at no time in the year do our thoughts turn to house and home more than at Christmastime. After all, *"if you long for sunshine and a friendly gaze, for the holidays you can't beat home sweet home."*

1. Indigo Rose
   Silent Night
2. The Prairie Schooler, Inc.
   Log Cabin at Running Deer Farm
3. Julia Lucas Designs
   Peace on Earth
4. Heart In Hand Needleart
   Tidings of Joy
5. Gentle Pursuit Designs
   Christmas Eve in Old Salem
6. Imaginating, Inc.
   Silent Night
7. Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.
   Gingerbread Boy

Amaryllis Artworks

Denise Harrington Pratt

Peanut Butter Cups

1 c. margarine or butter, melted
1 1/3 c. graham-cracker crumbs
1 c. peanut butter
2 1/3 c. confectioners' sugar
1 pkg. (11 oz.) milk-chocolate Hershey® Kisses® or 1 pkg. milk chocolate chips

Combine graham-cracker crumbs with melted butter. Mix in peanut butter and confectioners' sugar. Pat evenly in 9" x 13" pan. Melt chocolate in double boiler. Spread over graham-cracker mixture.

Cool in fridge until chocolate is firm. Cut into squares. Keep at room temperature. Store in tin, putting wax paper between layers.

PANSY

Designed by Denise Harrington Pratt of Amaryllis Artworks

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4
X 002 gold

Kreinik® Silk Mori®
■ 6086 grape, dk. (arrowhead cross stitch)

Caron Collection Waterlilies®
. 185 orchid
$ 066 jade

Caron Collection Soie Cristale™
✳ 6022 plum (double leviathan stitch)
♥ 6022 plum (double backstitch)
ss 4003 yellow, med.

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count silver blue linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 36H x 36W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Work arrowhead cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 6086.

Work double backstitch over two threads, using two strands 6022.

Work double leviathan stitch over four threads, using one strand 6022. (**NOTE:** Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

Work satin stitch in flower center, using two strands 4003. Work satin stitch for leaves using two strands 066.

Work straight stitch for stamen, using one strand 4003.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using Anchor® 256 six-strand embroidery floss. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Angel Stitchin

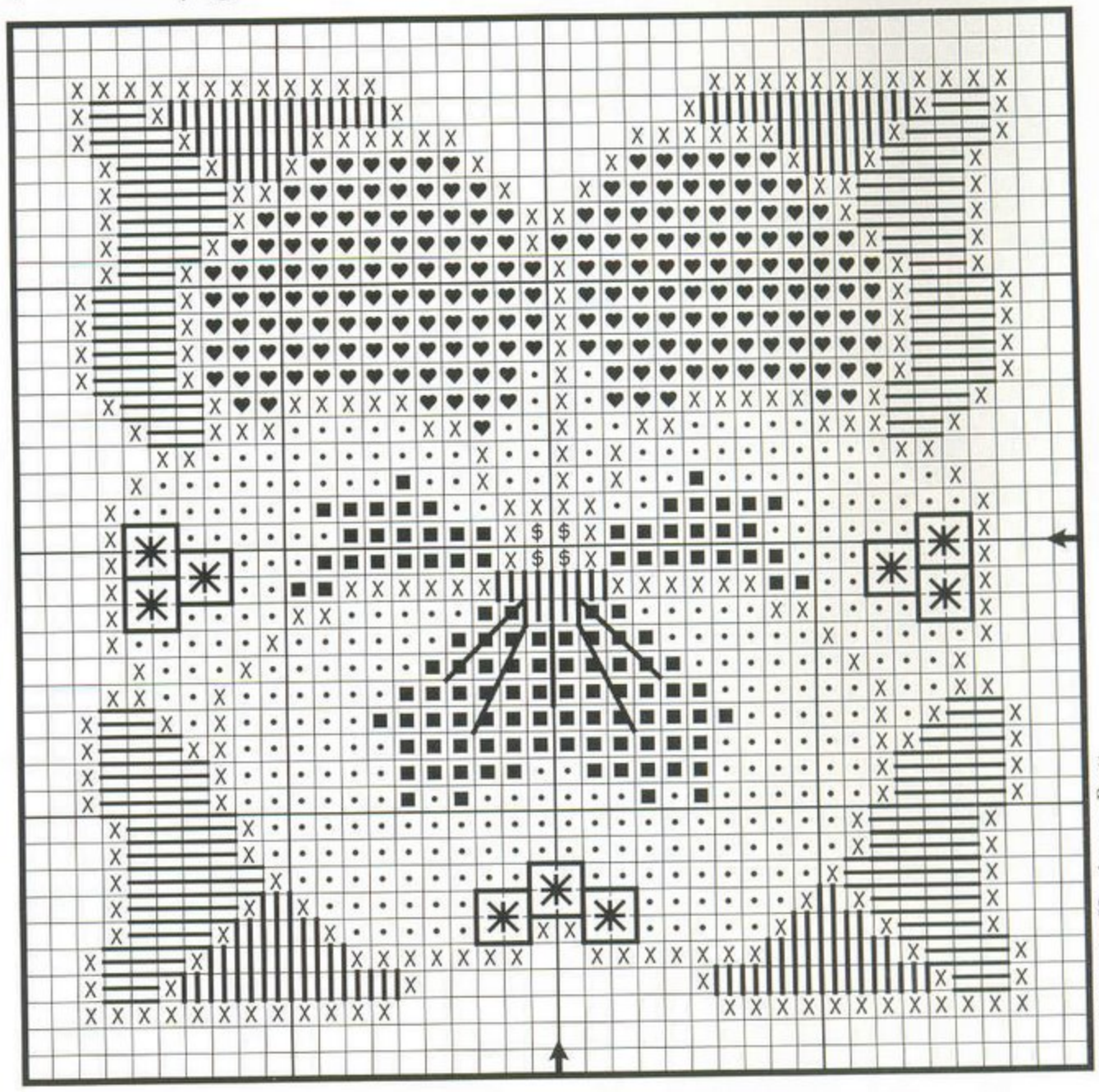
Jan Fate

The photo is of my grandson, Jordan Michael.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. All of us at Angel Stitchin would like to thank every US military serviceman and servicewoman for your hard work and commitment. God bless you all.

Amaryllis Artworks
174 Mountain Road
Raymond, ME 04071
e-mail: amart@maine.rr.com

(Photo is on page 16. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 Denise Harrington Pratt

PANSY

Low-Carb Chicken Tacos

2 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. olive oil
1 pkg. Louis Rich® chicken breast strips (Southwestern)
4 slices Colby-Jack cheese
1/3 c. sour cream (optional)
1/4 red onion, chopped
1/2 bell pepper, chopped (optional)
4 low-carb tortillas
1/4 c. sugar-free salsa

Heat 1 tablespoon oil in large skillet. Cut chicken strips into smaller pieces; warm in oil. Remove chicken and drain on paper towels. Add sour cream, onion, pepper in pan and cook one minute. Add chicken and stir. To crisp each tortilla, place leftover oil in a pan and fry each tortilla until crispy. Fold in half, add cheese and place on a paper towel. Fill each with 1/4 of the filling. Top with salsa.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Designed by Jan Fate of Angel Stitchin

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

▲	2153	cypress
●	1298	gunmetal
○	4125	snowflake

The Gentle Art
Sampler Threads

$	0150	evergreen
■	1040	black crow
.	7012	picket fence
✳	0330	cherry wine
X	7026	fragrant cloves

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count mushroom Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 69H x 69W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** When using hand-dyed floss it is recommended to finish each cross stitch before beginning the next.)

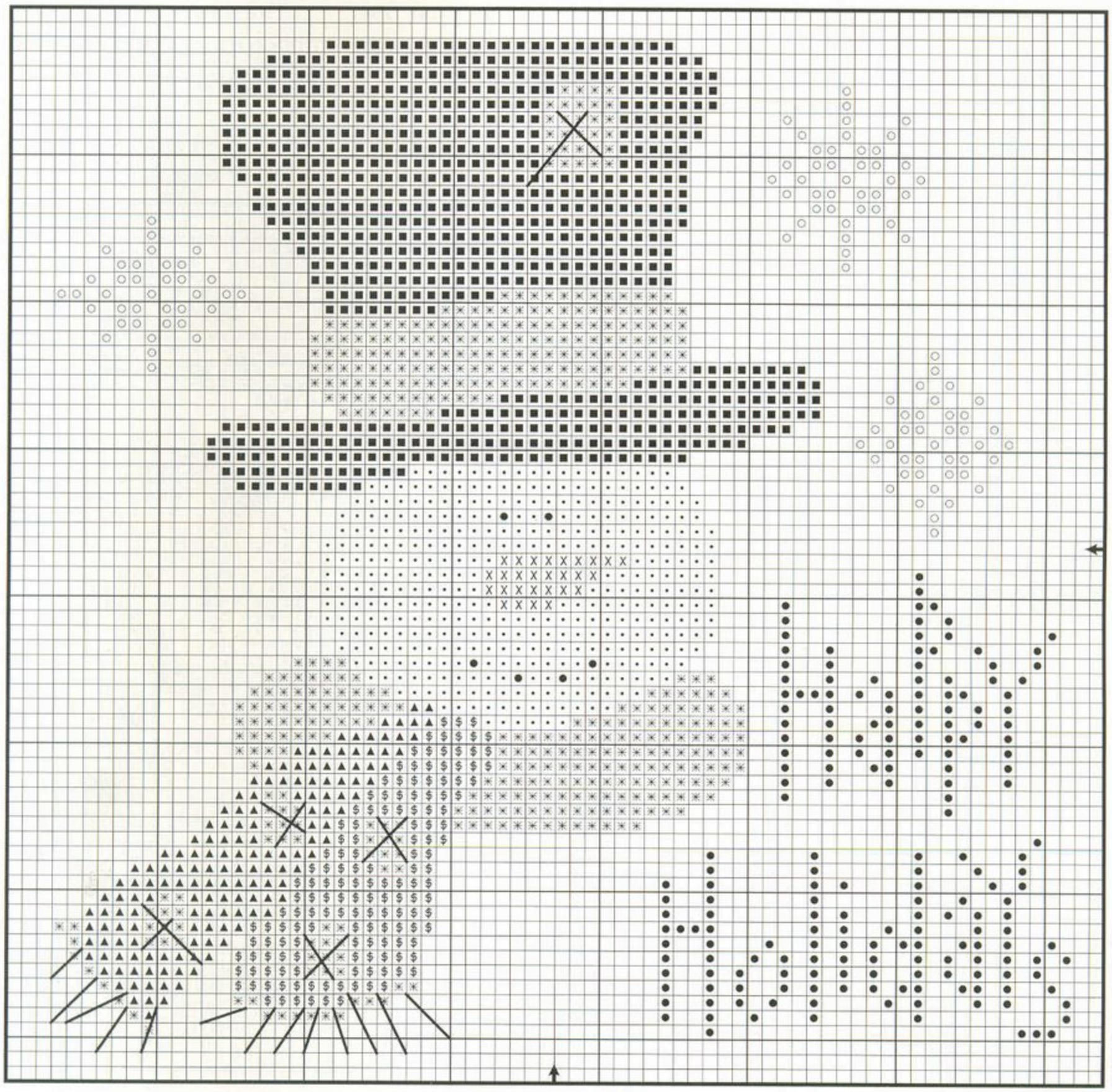
Work straight stitch, using one strand 1298.

Finishing instructions: Stitched piece was inserted into Stitcher's Station over-one stocking (color may vary).

Stitched by Debbie Beeson Wygal

Angel Stitchin
Post Office Box 345
Irving, IL 62051
e-mail: angelstitchin@aol.com
website: angelstitchin.com

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Blackbird Designs

Barb Adams and Alma Allen

My holiday stitching plans could be compared to a dessert buffet: everything looks good, and I'm sure I can finish it all! Of course, my good intentions are invariably just that...good intentions. After stitching one or two projects, I realize I don't have enough time to finish them all. Mostly, my plans are too ambitious; and these projects are still waiting to be completed! So, instead of a lovely stitched sampler for each friend, I need a substitute gift.

Now I have the solution! I stitch one sampler, then run to the copy center to begin making my gifts! Each copy I make is a reduction of the original sampler. The reduction percentage depends upon the sampler size. Usually I try to reduce the samper by at least 30%–40%. The resulting color copies are not always color correct, but the stitches show well. These copies look surprisingly like the real thing! I frame several of these small prints and give them to friends.

Gift tags are easily made the same way, by using card stock and the color copier! Most color copiers have a function that will allow you to make multiples on each page. I reduce the sampler to 40%–50% and run several sheets for unique gift tags.

Make plenty of ornaments to share with all of your friends! You'll be ready for the holidays with artful style!

Blackbird Designs
11065 W. 175th Street
Olathe, KS 66062
e-mail: dma@sound.net
website: www.blackbird-designs.com

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT 2004

Designed by Barb Adams and Alma Allen of Blackbird Designs

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

■	1040	black crow
◑	1050	soot
▲	0110	dried thyme
X	0130	avocado
♥	7008	rhubarb
✳	7002	straw bonnet (Smyrna cross stitch)

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 30-count dye pot blend linen from R & R Reproductions, Inc.
Stitch count: 60H x 60W
Design size: 4" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. (**NOTE:** When using hand-dyed floss it is recommended to finish each cross stitch before beginning the next.)

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using two strands 7002.

Finishing instructions: Ornament and/or gift tags may be made by copying the design on card stock, using a color copier and reducing the size of the design by 55%. (The design may also be made ornament size by stitching it over one thread, using one strand of floss.)

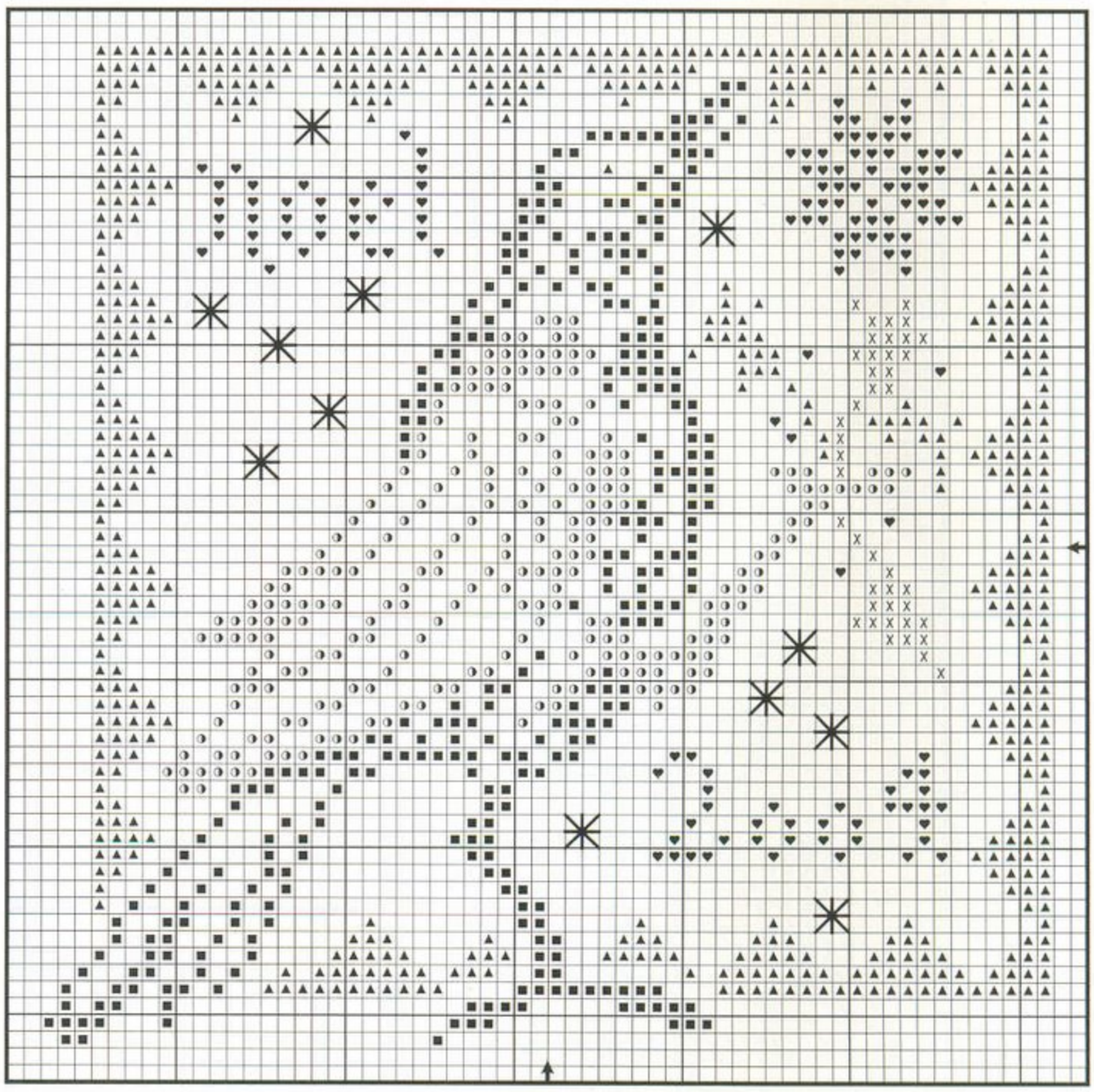
With wrong sides together, place copy of stitched piece on piece of holiday fabric or paper. Center design and cut out, making design and backing 2½" square. Place between two pieces of 2½" glass.

Carefully peel away the protective paper backing on a 10¼" length of ¼" silvered copper tape. Center the tape on the bottom of the ornament and wrap around the outside edge. Overlap ends of tape and press down over glass.

Using a soldering iron and Radio rosin core solder, solder ends of tape. Solder one ¼" diameter silver ring finding to each side of ornament top.

Thread two lengths of coordinating ribbon through the ring findings and tie in bow for hanger.

(Photo is on page 20. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT 2004

©2004 Blackbird Designs

Brightneedle

Ann Pettit and Liz Knudsen

Our ice skaters are gracefully gliding in with a holiday wish for you! The tiny spiderweb rose in this design was a lot of fun to create. We really like the dimensional quality obtained by using three shades of one color. If you decide to stitch this piece over two or on Aida, just increase the number of over-under revolutions to compensate for the increase in diameter.

This holiday recipe has been a favorite of Liz's since her mom started making it in the 1960s. It is fattening and luscious, but it's Christmas, so live a little!

Eggnog Cake and Frosting

To your favorite two-layer plain butter cake recipe, add 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg (freshly grated, if possible) and bake as usual.

Frosting:

¼ c. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
1 c. eggnog
⅔ c. butter, softened
1 c. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
Freshly grated nutmeg (for garnish)

In a medium saucepan, combine flour and salt. Add eggnog a little at a time, stirring thoroughly between additions. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until thick. Cool. Using electric mixer, cream butter and sugar in a mixing bowl until fluffy. Add cooled eggnog mixture. Beat until light and fluffy. Add vanilla; stir. Frost cooled cake layers. Dust top lightly with freshly grated nutmeg.

TO THEE LOVE

Designed by Liz Knudsen and Ann Pettit of Brightneedle

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♡	224	893	pink, lt.
✳	169	850	pewter, lt.
☆	452	232	shell gray, med.
♥	3861	677	cocoa, lt.
♭	613	831	drab brown, lt.
.	739	366	tan, ul. lt.
■	645	273	beaver gray, vy. dk.
○	3024	388	brown-gray, vy. lt.
/	3072	397	beaver gray, vy. lt.
ℓ	927	849	gray-green, med.
$	3013	853	khaki, lt.
3	3046	887	yellow-beige, med.
	152	894	shell pink, med. lt.
	225	1026	pink, vy. lt.

The Gentle Art
Simply Shaker Sampler Threads

X	7027	parchment
▲	7028	grape leaf
●	7029	walnut

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 30-count white swan Legacy linen from Access Commodities
Stitch count: 73H x 47W
Design size: 1⅞" x 1¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Work straight stitch for skate blades, using one strand 645.

Work spiderweb stitch for rose, using one strand 224/893 for spokes. Begin weaving under every other spoke from center of flower, using one strand 224/893 for three or four revolutions. Continue weaving under every other spoke until spokes are no longer visible, using one strand 225/1026.

Work colonial knot for center of rose, using one strand 152/894.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using 452/232 and 3072/397. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Hanger was made using 7mm-wide gray-green silk ribbon.

Finished by Expressions in Needleart

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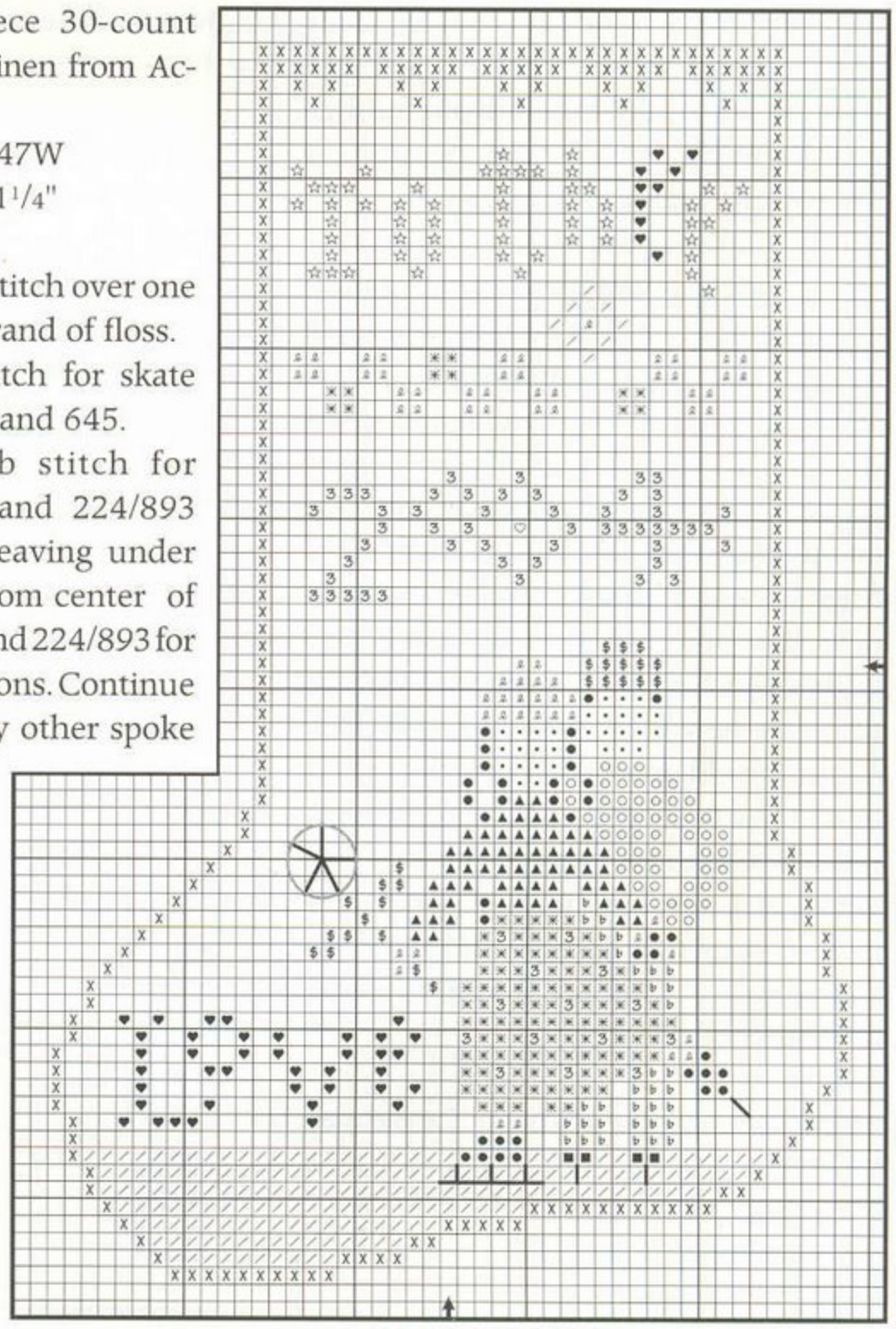
website: www.brightneedle.com

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



TO THEE LOVE

©2004 Blackbird Designs

©2004 Brightneedle

Brittercup Designs

Michelle M. Lash

Christmas is a time when family and friends join together to create wonderful memories and make holiday wishes come true. One memory I will never forget was during the time my brother and I were growing up in Nebraska and knew that Mommy was Santa Claus. Two weeks before Christmas, my mother would wrap our presents and put them under the tree. Like the very impatient children we were, my brother and I could never wait until Christmas to see what our presents were. So, we would wait until our mother went to work, carefully cut the tape on the packages, and look inside. Then we would wrap and re-tape the gifts the same way my mother wrapped them, giggling at the same time! My brother and I did this for years. We became very good at acting surprised on Christmas Eve when we opened our gifts, again!

Now that I have a family of my own and live so far away, I haven't been able to go back to Nebraska during the holidays. The one holiday wish I have is to go back to Nebraska during Christmas to create new memories and reminisce about the old ones! With that thought, I would like to share a cookie recipe from my late Grandma Lane. When I was a young girl, my grandmother made these melt-in-your-mouth sugar cookies for me all the time. To this day, they are still my favorite cookie! Enjoy!

Grandma Lane's Sugar Cookies

1 c. sugar
1 c. real butter, softened
1 egg
¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. cream of tartar
2 tsps. coconut extract
2 c. all-purpose flour
Sugar (for garnish)

Preheat oven to 400°. Mix the first seven ingredients together in a large mixing bowl, then add the flour.

Make 1"-diameter balls with the dough and place on a greaseless cookie sheet. Flatten balls a little. Sprinkle sugar on top. Bake for 5–7 minutes.

NOEL BIRDHOUSE

Designed by Michelle M. Lash of Brittercup Designs

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

☆	2225	marigold
.	1091	whitewash
■	1268	molasses
▲	1279	holly
X	2266	Turkish red

Just Another Button Company™

●	111.S	small white bird

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count summer khaki Zweigart® Lugana from Norden Crafts Ltd.
Stitch count: 46H x 39W
Design size: 3¼" x 2⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. [**NOTE:** When using 2266 for birdhouse, work cross stitches in columns (vertically) from the top of the birdhouse to the bottom, completing each cross stitch before beginning the next.]

Backstitch over two threads, using one strands 1268.

Attach button using one strand 1091.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim was purchased. Bow was made using ¼"-wide metallic red ribbon.

Brittercup Designs
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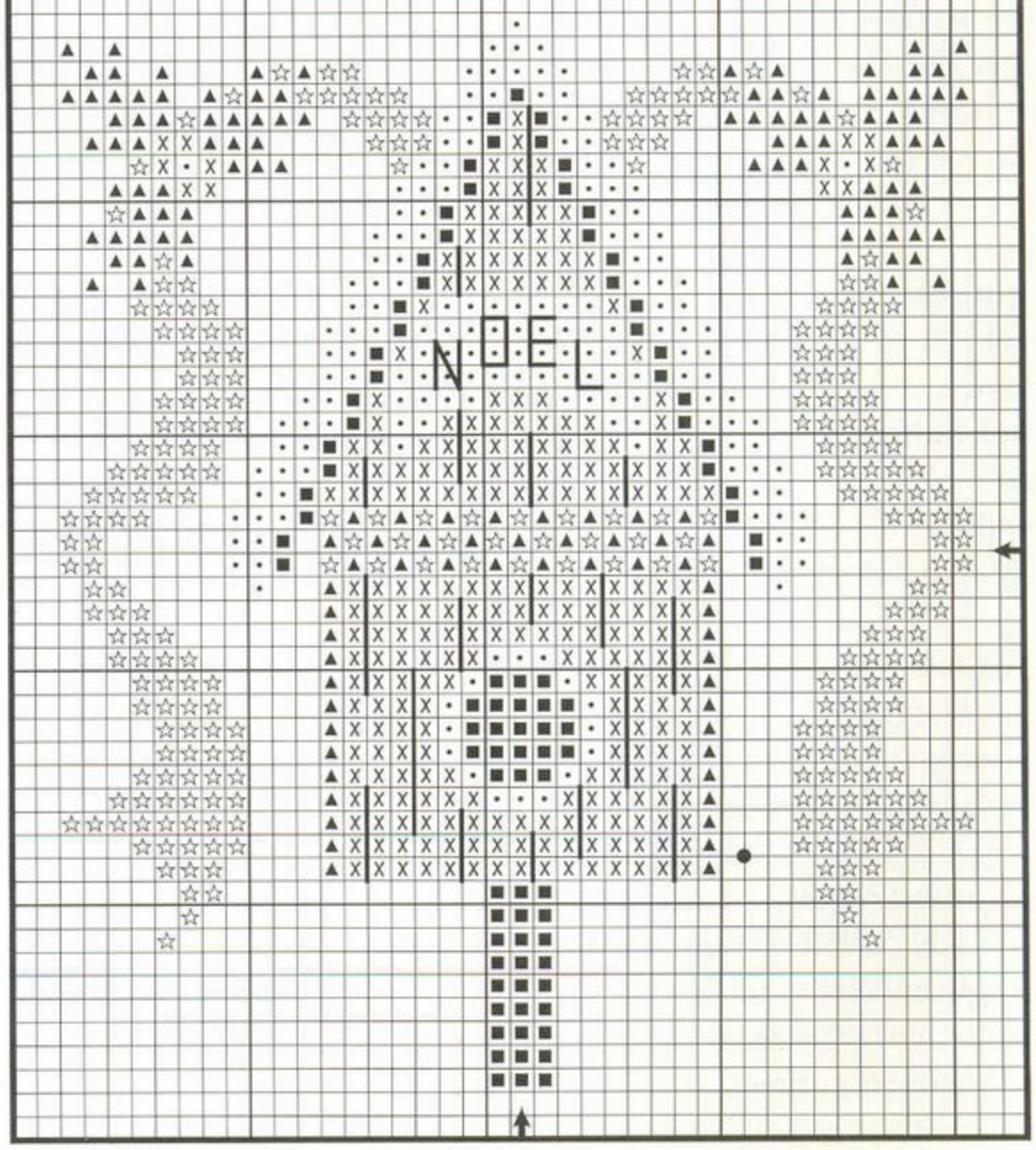
(Photo is on page 20.)



©2004 Brittercup Designs

NOEL BIRDHOUSE

Brown House Studio

Katherine Moser

The following is my favorite Christmas cookie recipe, and I hope you will enjoy it as well. Best wishes to you, your families, and friends for a peaceful and loving Christmas season!

Spicy Sugar Cookies

1 c. butter, softened
⅔ c. sugar
1 egg
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2½ c. all-purpose flour
1½ tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. ground allspice
¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
¼ tsp. ground cloves

Cream butter and sugar together in a large mixing bowl, then add egg and vanilla and beat until mixed well.

Combine remaining ingredients in another bowl. Add dry ingredients to butter mixture a little at a time, mixing well. Shape the dough into a ball and cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for one hour.

Preheat oven to 350°. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface to approximately ⅛" thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut out cookies. Place on ungreased cookie sheets–I use parchment paper–and bake for about 8 minutes. Remove cookies and cool on wire racks. Let cookies cool completely and frost with your favorite vanilla icing recipe!

FOLK ART TOPIARY

Designed by Katherine Moser of Brown House Studio

	DMC®	Anchor®	
X	320	215	pistachio, med,

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Floss

- ■ Black Coffee
- ◑ Timber
- ▲ Spinach
- ☽ Poblano Pepper
- @ Cherry Tomato
- ✳ Sunset
- R Shrimp Cocktail
- . Goldfish

Fabric: 9" x 7" piece 28-count golden needle Country French linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 66H x 45W
Design size: 4½" x 3¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim was purchased.

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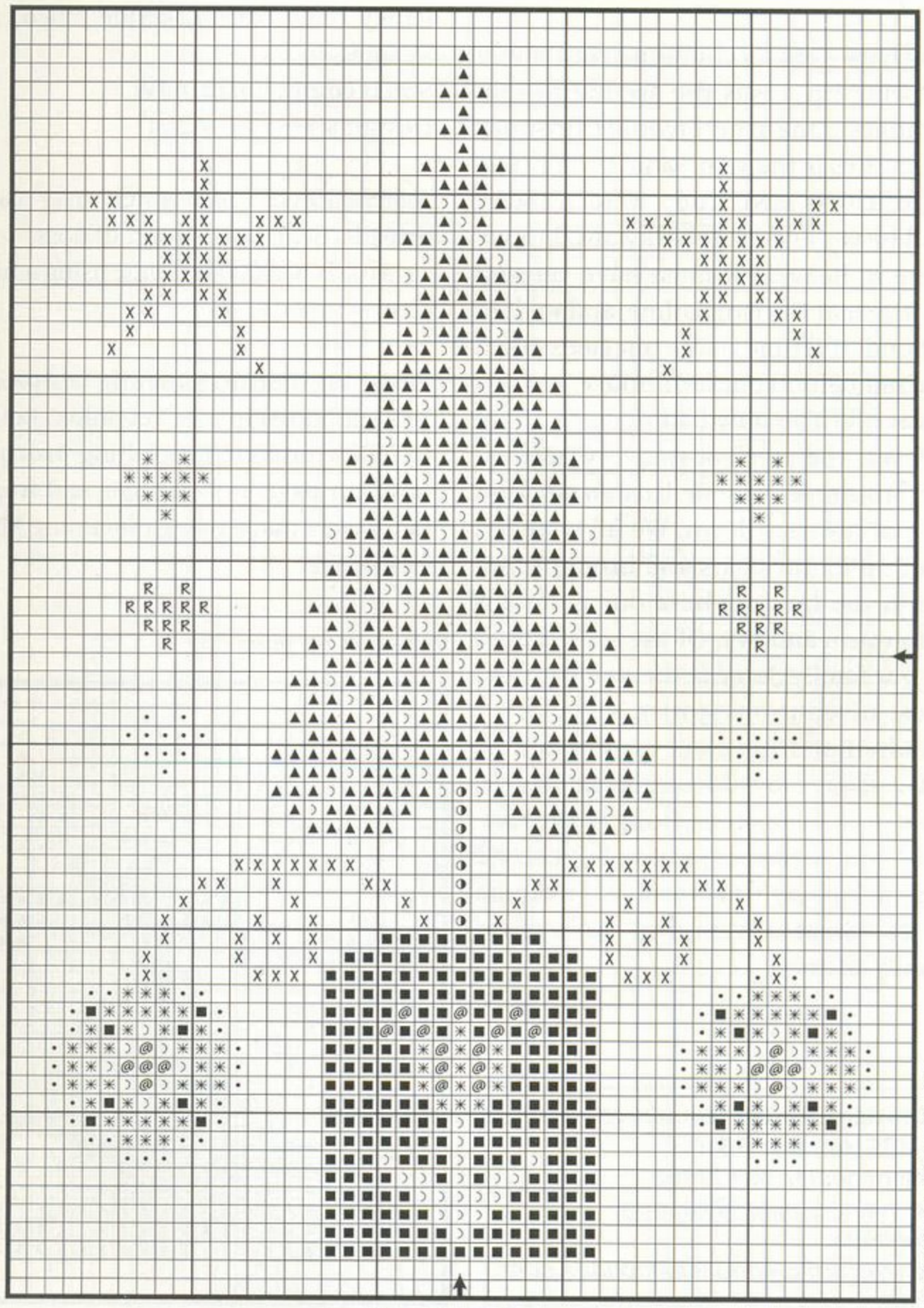
(Photo is on page 10.)



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FOLK ART TOPIARY

Carriage House Samplings

Kathy Barrick-Dieter

There were six children in my family growing up. I was the second-to-the-youngest. One of my favorite Christmas memories is the year Santa brought us each a new sled. They were wooden and heavy and quite awkward, but we were in heaven! It must have snowed that year at Christmastime, and we had a wonderful time riding our sleds down the hill behind our farmhouse. It was a great hill! The only bad part about the hill was the creek at the very bottom. My brother Jerry landed in that creek on one of his trips down. We all wrapped him up in our coats and brought him up to the house where our mom got him warm and dry. Of the six children in our family, Jerry is the one with the most adventurous stories. All of Jerry's children and his nieces and nephews have always loved hearing the "creek" story and the "getting hung in the hayloft" story and the "getting left behind on the Sunday trip" story and a bunch more. Great adventures make great family history.

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website:
www.carriagehousesamplings.com

RUNNING STAG

Designed by Kathy Barrick-Dieter of Carriage House Samplings

	Needlepoint, Inc. Silk	DMC®	
■	587	3371	burnt umber
◑	915	838	maple brown
B	303	433	antique brown
X	903	420	raw sienna
.	694	3828	palomino gold
▲	346	3011	meadow green
☽	333	3012	avocado green

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

02011	Victorian gold
02023	root beer

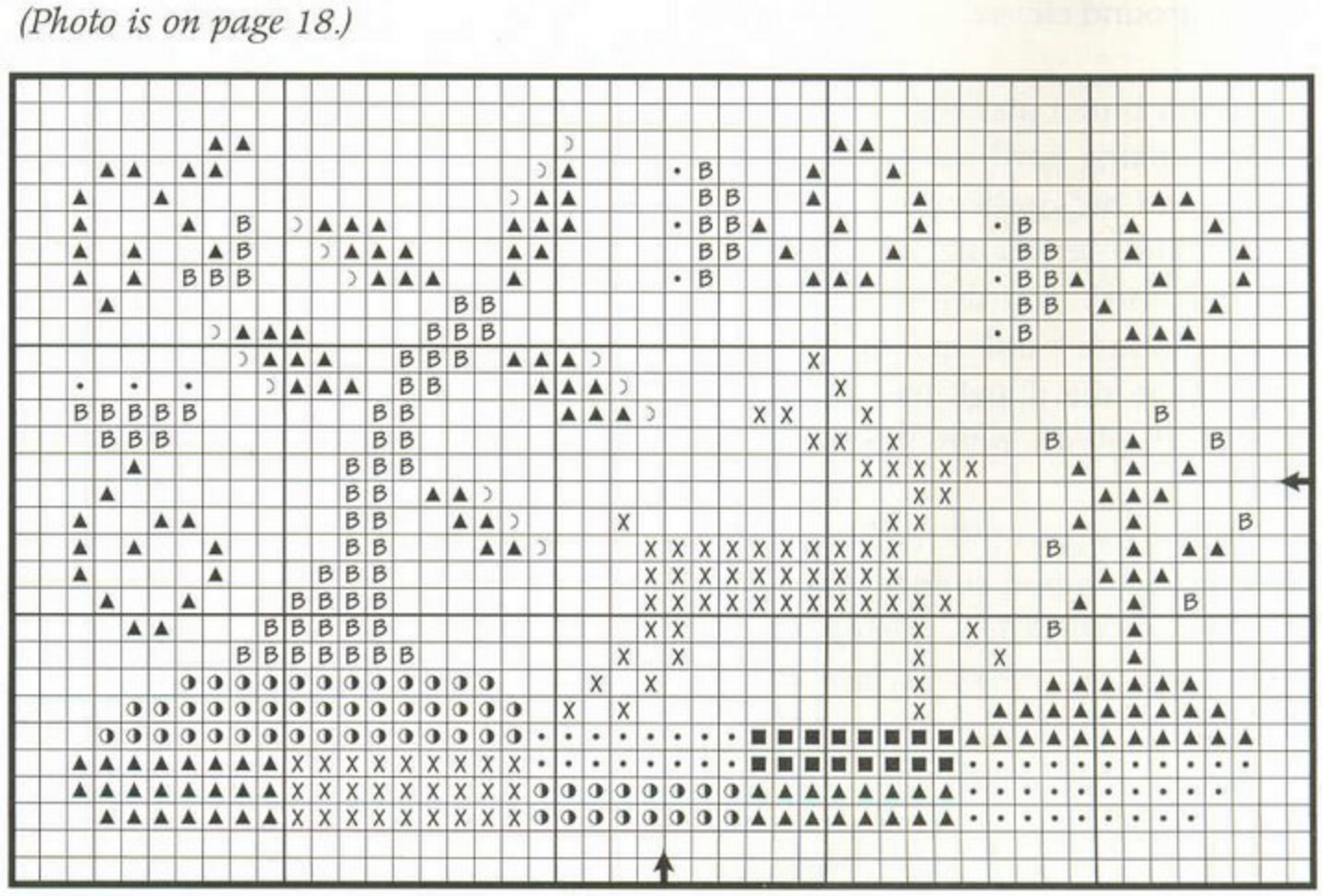
Fabric: 5" x 6" piece 40-count pearled barley linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs, Inc.
Stitch count: 26H x 44W
Design size: 1 1/3" x 2 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads randomly, using a full cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Stitched piece was appliqued to a velvet pillow. Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Hanger and front loops were made using remaining Mill Hill beads.

(Photo is on page 18.)



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RUNNING STAG

Charland Designs Inc.

Charland Garvin

Throughout the years, I've made and stitched many, many Christmas stockings. Initially, they were made of felt for my own children, with a boy or girl angel on the front and a large initial on the back. I went on to making felt stockings for sale at craft shows and, in later years, to finishing stockings for a needlework shop where I worked. As my children grew up and as my fondness and skill for "proper needlework" grew, I embarked on replacing the original felt stockings with stitched ones.

My son Mitch was the first to receive a new stocking, needlepointed in bright Christmas colors. Daughter Sydney was next on the list; and, though I had started

hers, I laughingly told her I would do one for her if she would do one for me, and then promptly forgot my words to her. You should know, my daughter is a wonderful, wonderful person but she doesn't really enjoy stitching. Yes, she has learned needlework at her mother's side, but stitching isn't one of her favourite ways to spend time. In any case, I finished her stocking and was well into doing son Chris' when Christmas rolled around again.

You cannot begin to imagine my surprised delight when, that Christmas, many years ago, I opened a package from Sydney to find that it contained a stocking for me, lovingly stitched by her. My first thought was that she had paid someone to make it, because I truly knew how she felt about stitching. Then I was overwhelmed because, all on her own, she'd taken bits and pieces from different designs and incorporated them into a glorious stocking. There was a large, jolly Santa, a lovely holly border, a small Canadian goose, and a timely Christmas verse—all of my favorite things. It truly is a wonder of wonders, and I am very aware of how much time, effort, and love went into its creation. I still get goosebumps thinking about this very special gift; and each year, I hang it with pride.

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LOVE HEART ORNAMENT

Designed by Charland Garvin of Charland Designs Inc.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

X	0190	forest glade
■	0311	holly berry
○	7010	Ohio lemon pie

Charland Designs Inc. Sterling Silver Charms

♥		holly heart

Fabric: 10" x 10" piece 28-count Queen Anne's Lace hand-dyed Permin® Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 71H x 71W
Design size: 5" x 5"

(Photo is on page 12 and 13.)

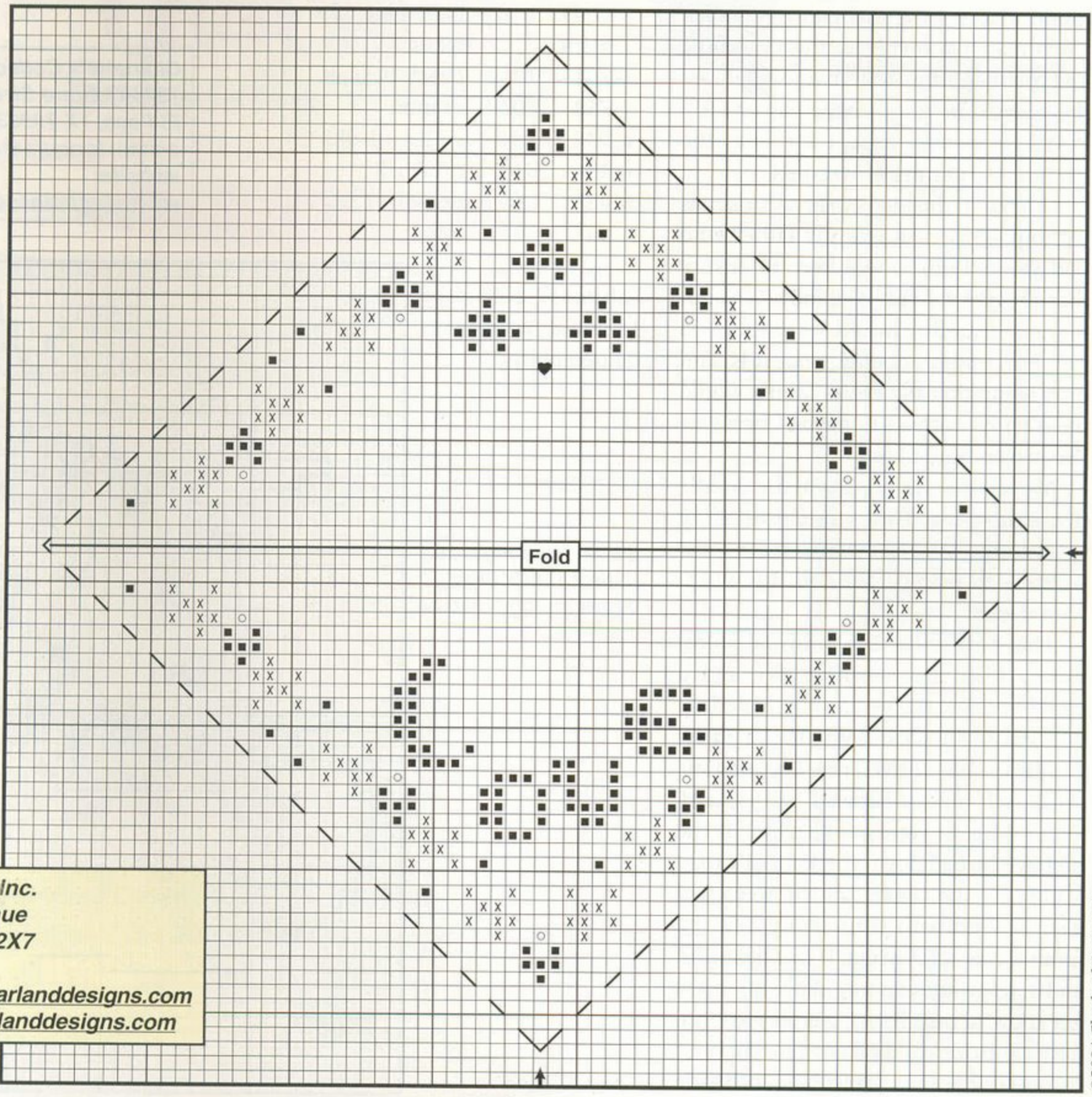
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Attach charm, using two strands 0311 and tying floss tails in a bow.

Finishing instructions: Work running stitch for border, using sewing thread. Fold ornament along fold line with right sides together; pin in place. Sew together along running-stitch border, leaving an opening for turning. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". Remove pins and running-stitch border.

Turn ornament right-side out. Lightly fill with polyester stuffing, leaving side points unfilled. Blind stitch opening closed. Bring side points together at top of ornament, overlapping slightly, and tack in place. Bow was made using 5/8"-wide ribbon.

Stitched by Mary Milletics



LOVE HEART ORNAMENT

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Charlette's Collectibles

Charlette Oblack Dockens

I love Christmas! It is a magical, joyful time for me; and my life has been filled with wonderful memories steeped in tradition. For as long as I can remember, Christmas has revolved around family and friends getting together to celebrate the blessed holiday. Christmas has ALWAYS been this, except for one: the Christmas after my father died.

Our family dreaded our first Christmas without him, for it was my father who had worked our whole lives to ensure that we had a sense of family. Without him, we feared it would be empty and sad. But, tradition being what it is, and ours being that the entire family would meet at my brother's home on Christmas Eve, we continued on.

My brother's home sits in the middle of a pecan grove. This is the closest thing to "over the river and through the woods" we come to, living in the arid, dry Southwest desert.

That Christmas Eve, unusual storm clouds filled the morning sky and a chilly bite was in the air. We loaded up our cars and made our way to the grove. During the hour drive, snow began to fall. With each mile, it snowed harder; and, before long, we were in a blizzard. By the time we turned down the long dirt road leading to the house, all the trees had been frosted with white icing and the ground was solid white. It was beautiful and magical and exciting. Since we rarely get snow in our desert, we played until we were frozen and exhausted. We built snowmen, had snowball fights, and made snow angels galore.

Finally, we retreated to the house, defrosted, had a lovely meal, and opened our presents. Not a note of sadness could be heard. Later, as I stood with my brother on the front porch looking out onto that magical winter wonderland, listening to the holiday cheer in the background, I hugged him and said, "An angel has given us this wonderful gift and I think we know his name." Thankfully, it was a serene, glorious Christmas.

SERENITY

Designed by Charlette Oblack Dockens of Charlette's Collectibles

	DMC®	Anchor®	
✳	680	901	old gold, dk.
✳	002HL	Kreinik®	gold, hi lustre
○	3823	386	yellow, ul. pl.
◆	334	977	baby blue, med.
/	3841	1096	baby blue, pl.
.	blanc	2	white
X	754	1012	peach flesh, lt.
♡	760	1022	salmon
■	938	381	coffee, ul. dk.
★	434	310	brown, lt.
Ƀ	435	365	brown, vy. lt.
☽	436	363	tan

Fabric: 5" x 4" piece 14-count white perforated plastic

Stitch count: 51H x 36W
Design size: 3 2/3" x 2 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch using three strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of floss and one strand of Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4.

Backstitch using one strand 938/381.

Work star stitch, using one strand of Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4.

Finishing instructions: Cut out angel, leaving one line of plastic outside stitching. Trace outline onto felt or coordinating fabric. Cut out backing, then apply anti-fraying compound to edges of fabric. When dry, glue to back of stitched piece, using fabric glue. Use 6" piece of very fine braid to create loop hanger.

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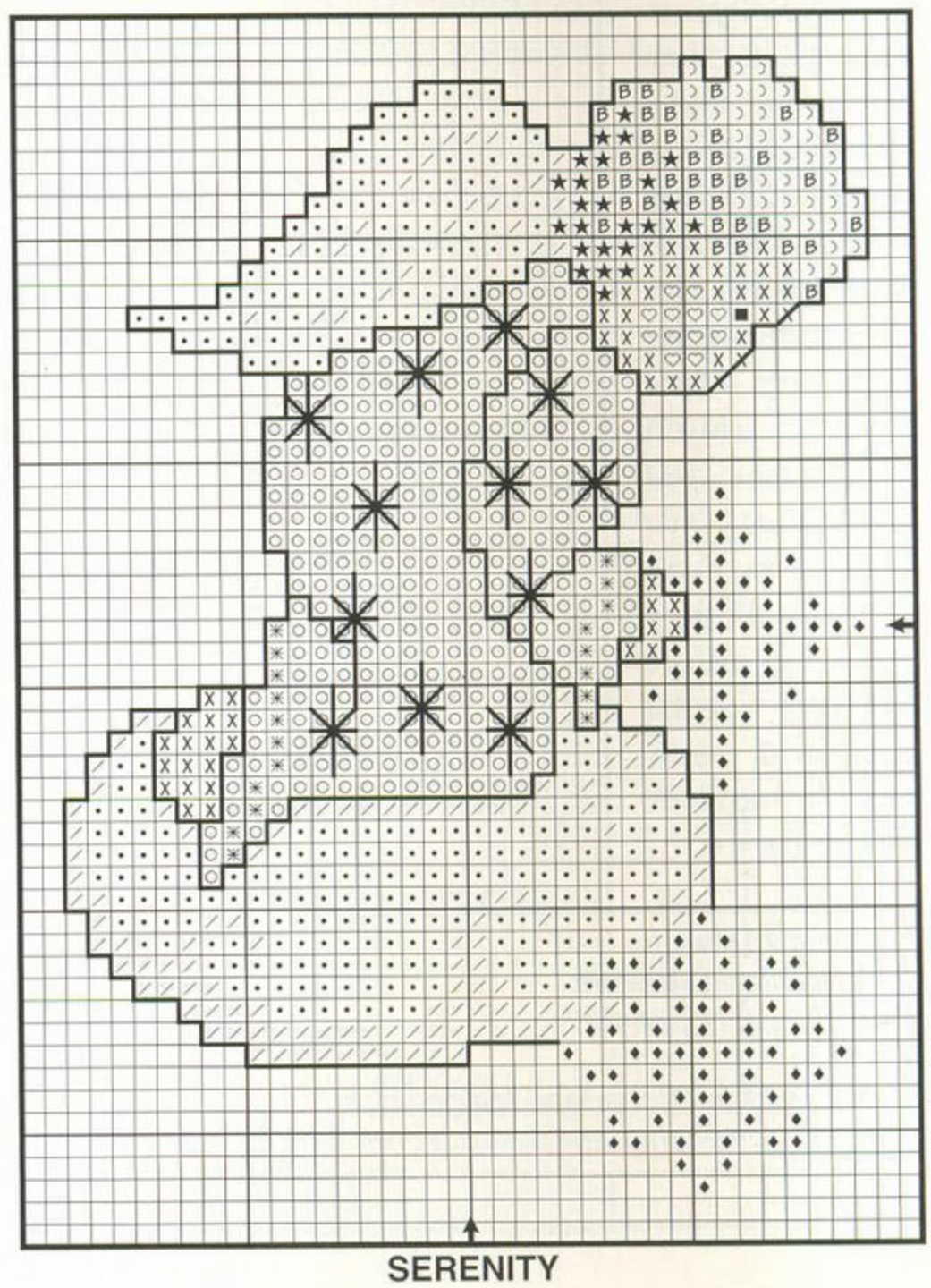
www.charlettescollectibles.com

(Photo is on page 16. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



SERENITY

©2004 Charlette's Collectibles

Charlotte's Web Needlework

Charlotte Smyth

Christmas is a time for giving; and, as stitchers, we know that when we give of our time and skill, we get back much more. As a self-confessed Christmas addict, I have two traditions that seem appropriate here. Every year, I make ornaments and cookies to share with friends: ornaments because they are stitched and because I love Christmas trees, and cookies because I had a mother who baked endless batches and it rubbed off.

Practicing these traditions has resulted in memories I treasure. None are more special than those from the year when I was doing my MBA course. We were 32 students from 17 countries. This diversity meant that we came from different cultures and traditions. As Christmas is important to me, it was something that I wanted to share but was a bit worried that it would seem like I was trying to impose my culture. I needn't have worried whether they celebrated Christmas or not; all were pleased with their small gift and understood that was what it was.

I think that these cookies were the first I ever made with my mother, and they could be used to start a new holiday tradition with a special child.

Unbaked Cookies

2 c. sugar
½ c. milk
¼ lb. margarine
3 c. quick uncooked oatmeal
1 c. shredded coconut
⅓ c. cocoa
1 tsp. vanilla

Combine sugar, milk, and margarine in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat on stovetop. Remove from heat just as mixture begins to boil. Add remaining ingredients; stir. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper and allow to set.

THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

Designed by Charlotte Smyth of Charlotte's Web Needlework

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	500	683	blue-green, vy. dk. (Smyrna cross stitch)
♥	814	45	garnet, dk. (Smyrna cross stitch)
	The Gentle Art Sampler Threads		
	0360		cranberry

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count antique white Lugana from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 56H x 56W
Design size: 3½" x 3½"

Instructions: Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work French knot where ● appears in text, using one strand of matching floss and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work Rhodes-heart stitch over ten threads in center, using two strands 0360. (**NOTE:** Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

Backstitch instructions:

500	683	black lines
814	45	gray lines

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using 0360. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Charlotte's Web Needlework
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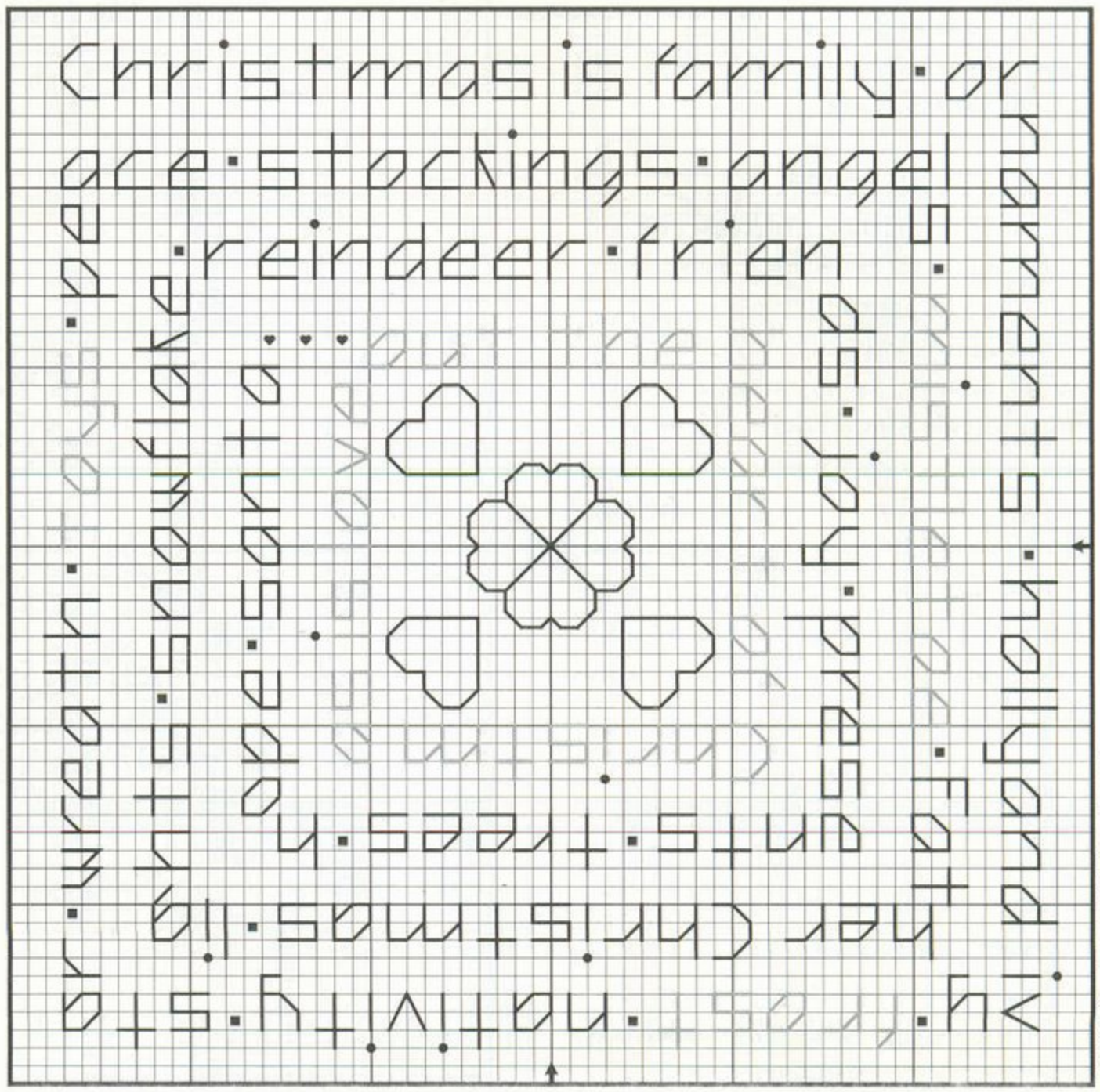
(Photo is on page 14. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

Chessie & Me

Linda Lautenschlager

Since we've moved to the "country," most family visits now involve an overnight or two; and I have had to greatly expand my "B & B" menu. These Almond Bars would be a wonderful addition to any holiday brunch table. They're easy, delicious, and one of my husband's favorites. What more could you ask for?

May this holiday season bring joy, laughter, and a little "stitch time" to you all!

Almond Bars

2 pkgs. refrigerated crescent-roll dough
2 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
1¼ c. sugar, divided
1½ tsp. almond extract
1 egg, separated
½ c. sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 350°.

Place one package of crescent rolls in bottom of a 9" x 13" pan. Press seams together and pat to fill pan.

In a mixing boxl, beat together cream cheese, ¾ cup sugar, almond extract, and egg yolk. Spread over dough. Place remaining dough over cream-cheese mixture (it will rise and fill in the gaps during baking). Beat egg white until frothy/foamy and spread over top layer of dough. Sprinkle with almonds and ½ cup sugar. Bake for 30 minutes until golden brown.

CANDY-CANE CAT

Designed by Linda Lautenschlager of Chessie & Me

	DMC®	Anchor®	
3	3347	266	yellow-green, med.
■	310	403	black (Smyrna cross stitch over two)
b	437	362	tan, lt.
.	712	926	cream
○	712	926	cream (Smyrna cross stitch over four)

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

●	1303	charcoal
✳	1173	Confederate gray
♥	3860	crimson
X	3860	crimson (Smyrna cross stitch over four)

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 30-count roasted crown blend linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 66H x 58W
Design size: 4½" x 3⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads for border, using two strands of floss. (**NOTE:** Lines indicate placement only and are not to be stitched.)

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work straight stitch for cat's whiskers, using two strands 310/403.

Work star stitch over eight threads, using two strands 721/926.

Backstitch instructions:

3347	266	candy cane
310	403	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 3860, 3347/266, and 712/926 floss and Anchor® 926 Pearl Cotton #5. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Chessie & Me
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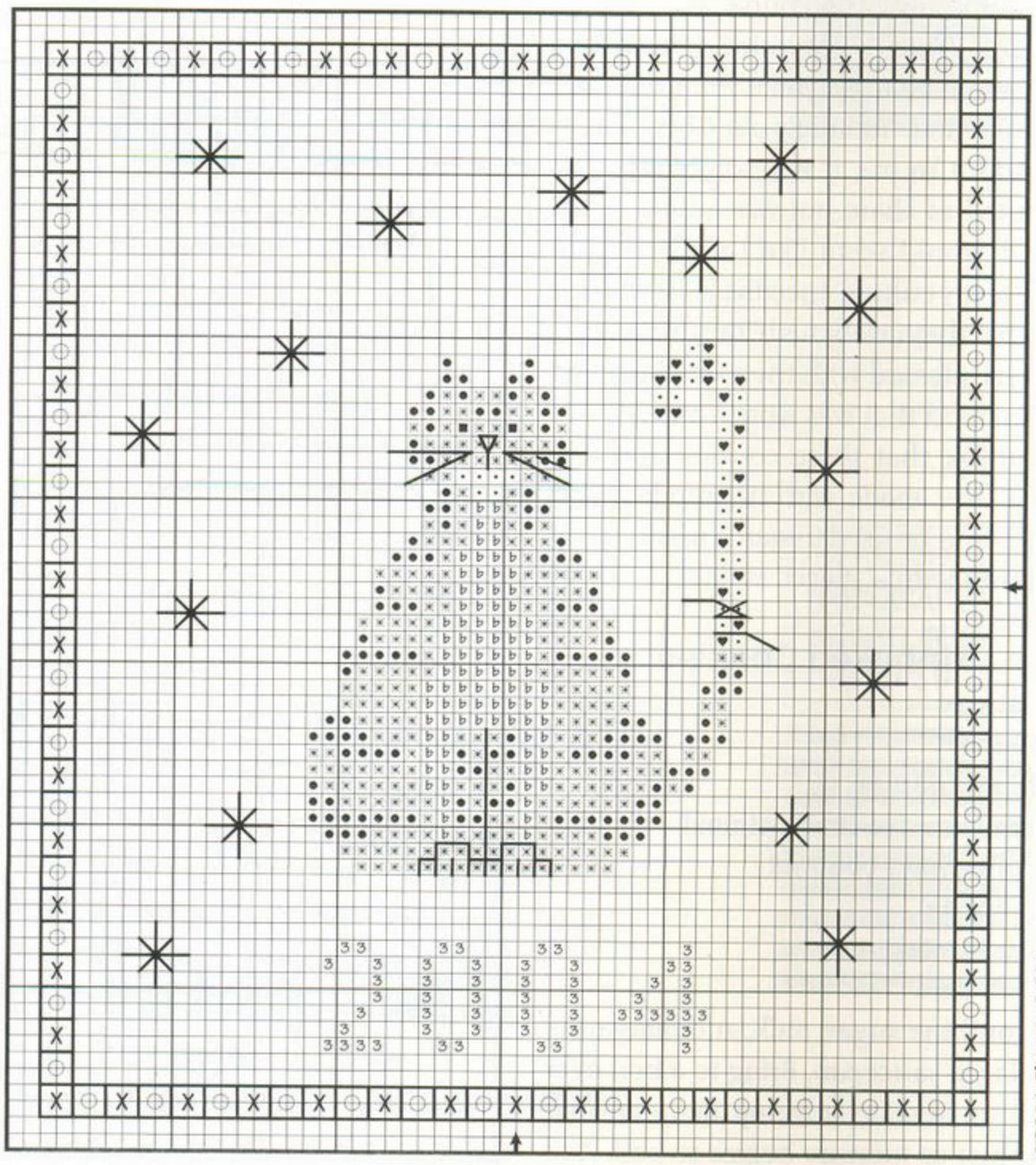
e-mail: chesnme@aol.com

(Photo is on page 11. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

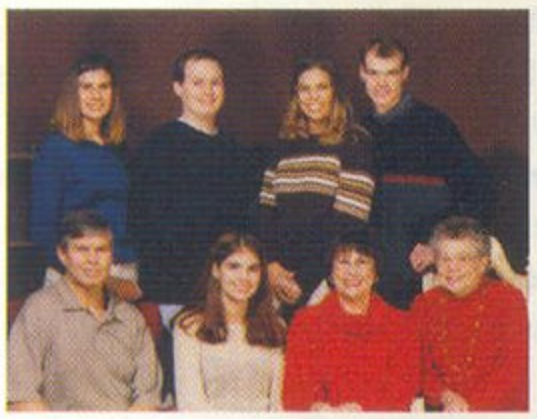


©2004 Chessie & Me

CANDY-CANE CAT

Cindy Valentine Designs

Cindy Valentine



The Valentine family's favorite Christmas tradition is the Christmas stocking. Every year "Santa" spends weeks hunting for something new, unique, and fun. One year everyone got kazoos in their stockings, and one year it was fancy kaleidoscopes. Last year it was a rerun of favorite childhood toys. Of course there are also the items that are "supposed" to be in the stocking: the new toothbrush (battery-powered mermaids and action figures last year!), nail clippers, lip balm, peanuts in the shell, a tangerine for the stocking's toe, and, of course, a candy cane! If something gets left out, "Santa" definitely hears about it! When the US Air Force sent us to the Middle East, we did not take any Christmas items along, so we improvised by using tall, narrow gift bags! Now that the children are grown, "Santa" even gets surprised with a stocking full of special treats.

Our most important tradition is to try and be together as a family to share the warmth and joy of the season. Merry Christmas and may the joy of the season bless you and yours!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Designed by Cindy Valentine of Cindy Valentine Designs

DMC®
729 old gold, med.

Kreinik® Blending Filament
002HL gold hi lustre

DMC® Metallic Embroidery Thread
284ZA gold, lt.

DMC® Coton Perlé #8
blanc white
320 pistachio green, med.

Weeks Dye Works™ Pearl Cotton #8
2264 garnet
2156 hunter

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads
• 40557 gold

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count cream Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 50H x 50W
Design size: 3⅝" x 3⅝"

Instructions: Work satin stitch for ribbon, using two strands 729 and one strand of blending filament.

Work straight stitch for center motif, using one strand 284ZA and pulling each stitch tightly to open hole in center.

Work satin stitch for black lines of leaves, using one strand 2156. Work satin stitch for gray lines of leaves, using one strand 320.

Work satin stitch for poinsettia petals, using one strand 2264. Carefully cut and remove fabric threads inside poinsettias along satin stitches where indicated by red lines on chart. Work sets of woven bars over two threads, using one strand 284ZA. Work spokes, using one strand 284ZA.

Work kloster-block border, using one strand blanc.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching sewing thread and a cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim was purchased.

Stitched by Shay Toner

(Photo is on page 25. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

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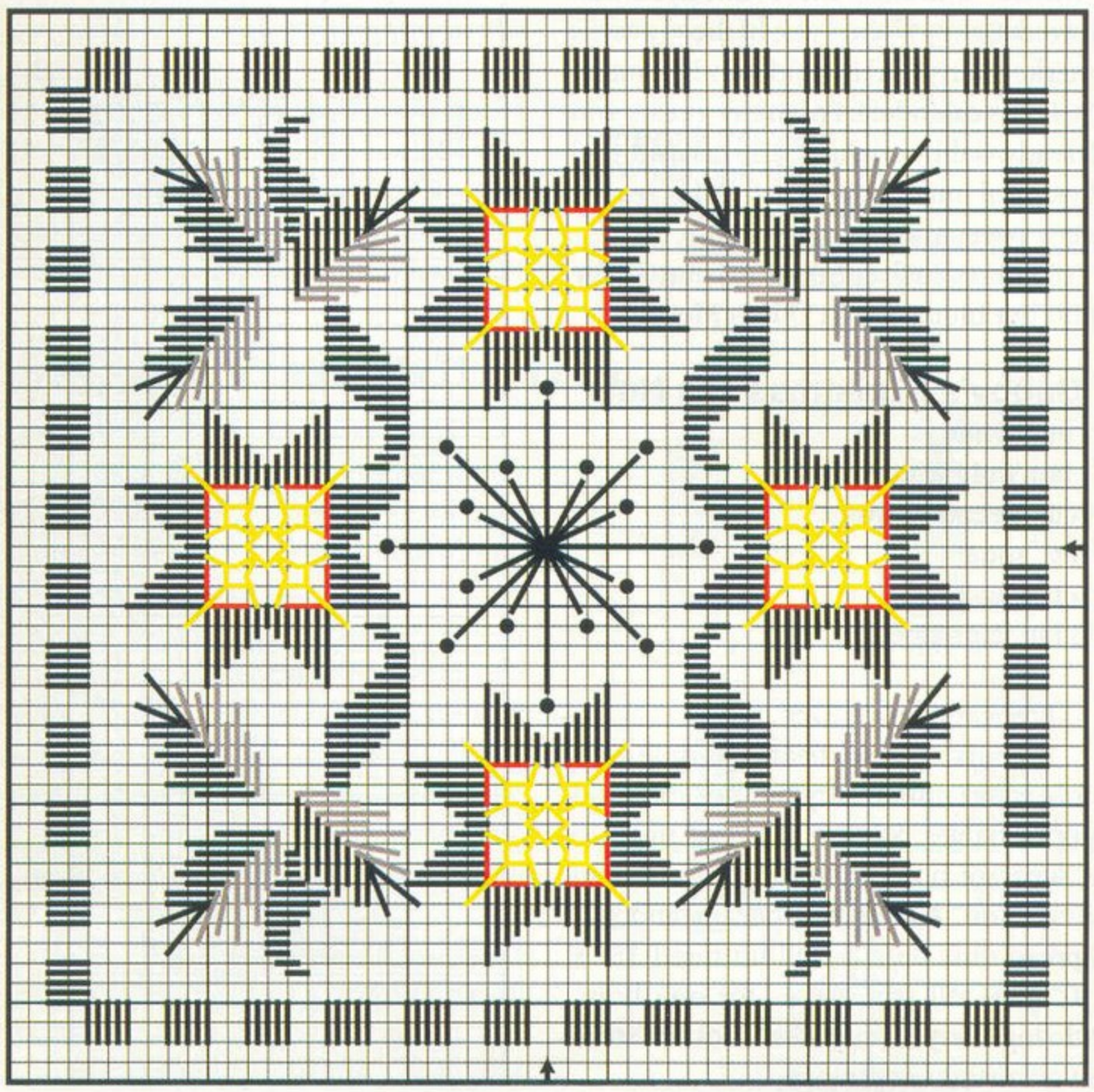

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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Cross-Eyed Cricket Inc.

Vicki Hastings

In 1994, the Cricket family was blessed with the arrival of the first grandchild of Nickie and Jimmy Odom. Gabrielle "Gabby" Meyer is a precious, joyful wonder who just happens to have Mosaic Downs Syndrome. In honor of the birth of this special little girl, Nickie and Gabby celebrated their first Christmas Tea. That and each following year, little ladies, moms, and grandmothers join Gabby to toast the joy of the new holiday season. It is a "dress-up" affair; one could even say "white tie and tails," except no boys are allowed. Gabby's Tea is one of those events marked early and in bold hand on many St. Louis calendars. For many guests and friends, Gabby's delight, enthusiasm, and beautiful smile begin each holiday season on a sweet and happy note.

Pictured in the photograph are Gabby and her mom, Shana Odom Meyer.

Gabby's Christmas Tea Nuts

1 egg white
1 tsp. cold water
¾ lb. pecan halves
½ c. sugar
¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 325°.

In a mixing bowl, beat egg white with cold water until frothy but not stiff. Add pecan halves. Stir well to coat nuts. In a separate bowl, blend sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Add coated pecans and stir. Spread nuts onto a well-buttered 15" x 10" jelly-roll pan. Bake for one hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Cool and store in an airtight container.

GABBY'S ANGEL

Designed by Vicki Hastings of Cross-Eyed Cricket Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
▲	890	218	pistachio, ul. dk.
$	367	216	pistachio, dk.
a	471	265	avocado, vy. lt.
☆	676	891	old gold, lt.
b	747	158	sky blue, vy. lt.
X	745	300	yellow, lt. pl.
ℓ	746	275	off-white
.	3865	2	winter white
♡	761	1021	salmon, lt.
/	819	271	baby pink, lt.
◒	3848	1076	teal green, med.
bs	335	40	rose
Fk	333	119	blue-violet, dk.
Fk	3760	162	Wedgewood
Fk	817	13	coral red, vy. dk.

Rainbow Gallery
Petite Treasure Braid

★	PB03	gold

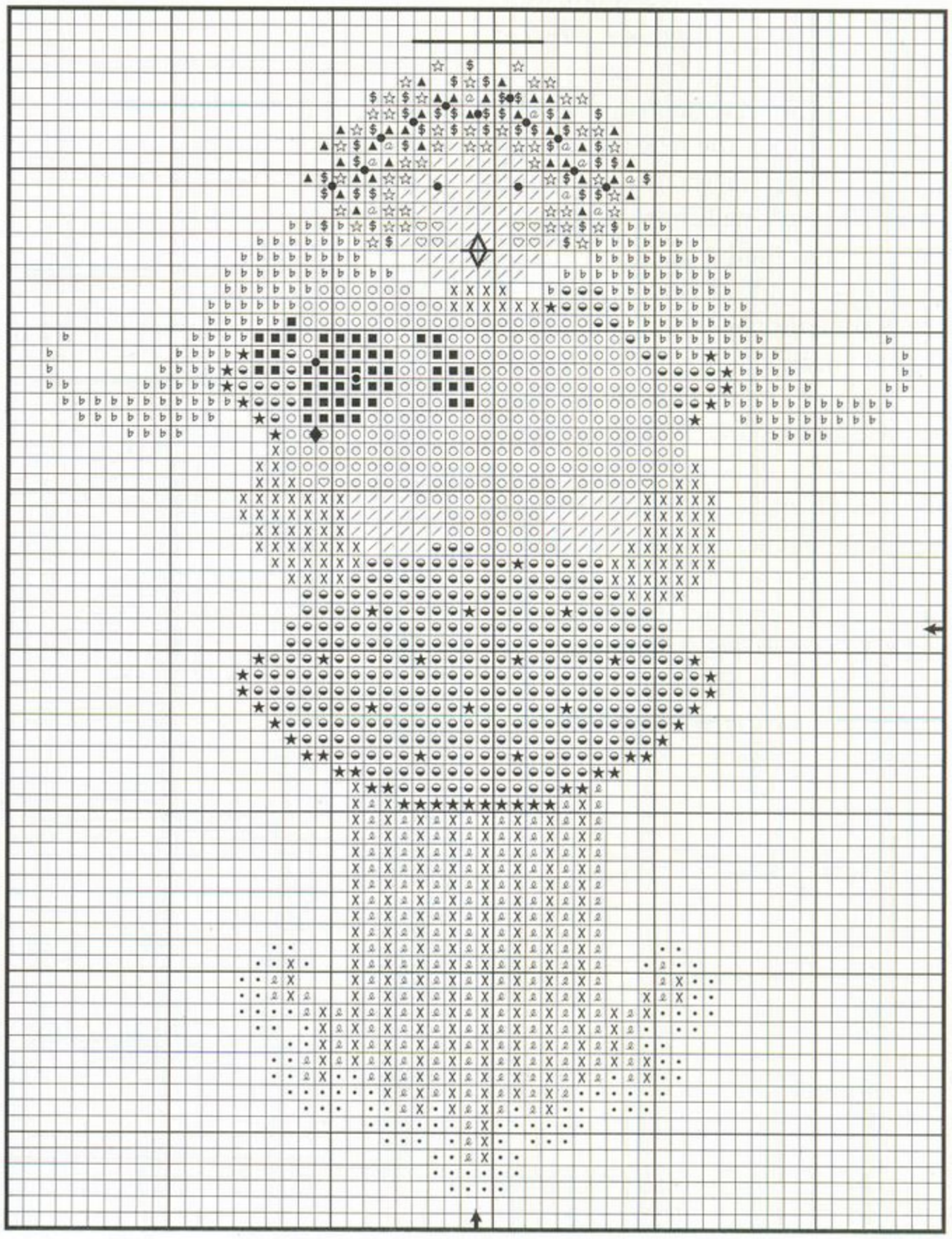
Mill Hill Glass Treasures

◆	12036	small snowflake, gold

Fabric: 9" x 8" piece 30-count celadon linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 72H x 54W
Design size: 4⅞" x 3⅝"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of braid.

(Photo is on page 17. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 Cross-Eyed Cricket Inc.

GABBY'S ANGEL

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of braid.

Work French knot where ○ appears for lamb's wool, using two strands 3865/2 and wrapping floss around needle twice.

Work French knot where ● appears, using one strand of floss and wrapping floss around needle three times.

Attach treasure, using two strands 3848/1076 and tying floss tails in a bow.

Backstitch instructions:

335	40	mouth
PB03		halo

French-knot instructions:

333	119	angel's eyes
3760	162	lamb's eye
817	13	berries in headpiece

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using 3848/1076 and PB03. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Cross-Eyed Cricket Inc.
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DebBee's Designs

Debbie Rowley

The holidays mean lots of deadlines for me! I sing in my church choir, and we have a large production every year, with extra rehearsals and at least two performances. As children's choir coordinator for my church, I'm responsible for planning and scheduling their Christmas program. I also ring in the church handbell choir.

Then there are the ornament exchanges with my two stitching groups, the Conway Cross Stitch Club and the stitching bee at the Stitcher's Garden in Searcy. I love receiving ornaments, too—each one is special, and I treasure the hands that stitched it as well as the ornament itself.

Of course, we eat at the ornament, exchanges! Have you ever noticed that stitchers are also good cooks? I enjoy making this soup because it's quick, easy, nutritious, and a little lower in fat.

Broccoli-Cheese Soup

3 (10.5-oz.) cans fat-free chicken broth
4 c. water
1 c. chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1 lb. bag frozen broccoli florets
8 oz. lite cream cheese, cubed
1 lb. lite Velveeta®, cubed
¼ c. cornstarch mixed with ¼ c. water
Salt, ground black pepper, and ground red pepper to taste

Combine chicken broth and water in a large pot with chopped onion and minced garlic; bring to a boil. Add frozen broccoli, return to a boil, and cook for about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to low and add cubed cheeses; stir constantly until melted and bubbly, taking care not to scorch. Add cornstarch mixed with water and stir until soup is thickened and bubbly. Add seasonings to taste. Remove from heat.

Pour about half of the mixture into a food processor or blender and process until smooth. Return to the pot and bring back to a simmer. The soup is ready to serve at this point, or may be put into a crockpot to hold until you are ready to eat. Serves about 6 hungry people or 10 polite people.

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TASSEL-MAKING HOW-TOS

Materials:

One skein of floss (**NOTE:** Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)
Square piece sturdy cardboard, approximately 1" larger than desired finished size of tassel
Hand-sewing needle
Scissors

1. Cut two 6" lengths of floss from full skein, to be used for tying top of tassel.

2. Wrap remaining floss around cardboard, referring to Illustration 1 and being careful not to bend cardboard by wrapping floss too tightly.

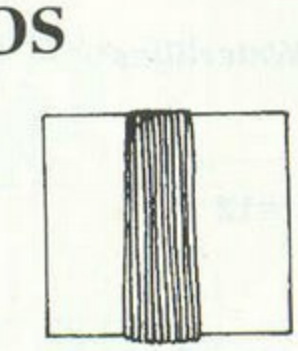
3. Slip one 6" length of floss under wrapped floss at top edge of cardboard and tie securely, referring to Illustration 2. Do not trim floss tails.

4. Carefully remove cardboard.

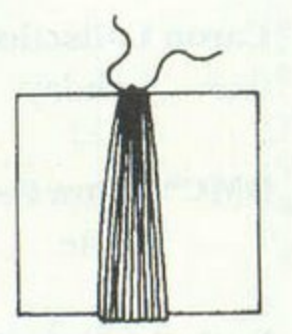
5. Referring to Illustration 3, wind second 6" length of floss around neck of tassel, ¼"–½" from top of tassel. Thread needle with floss tail and wrap around tie several times, referring to Illustration 4. Bury floss end in tassel. Repeat for remaining floss tail.

6. Cut along bottom of tassel through all fibers. Trim bottom of tassel to desired length and so that floss is even.

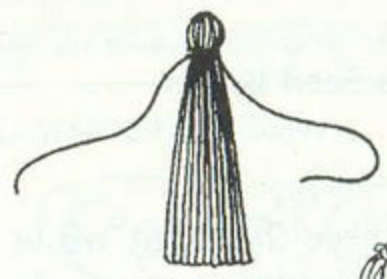
7. Attach tassel to ornament, using floss tail at top of tassel to secure.



ILL. 1



ILL. 2



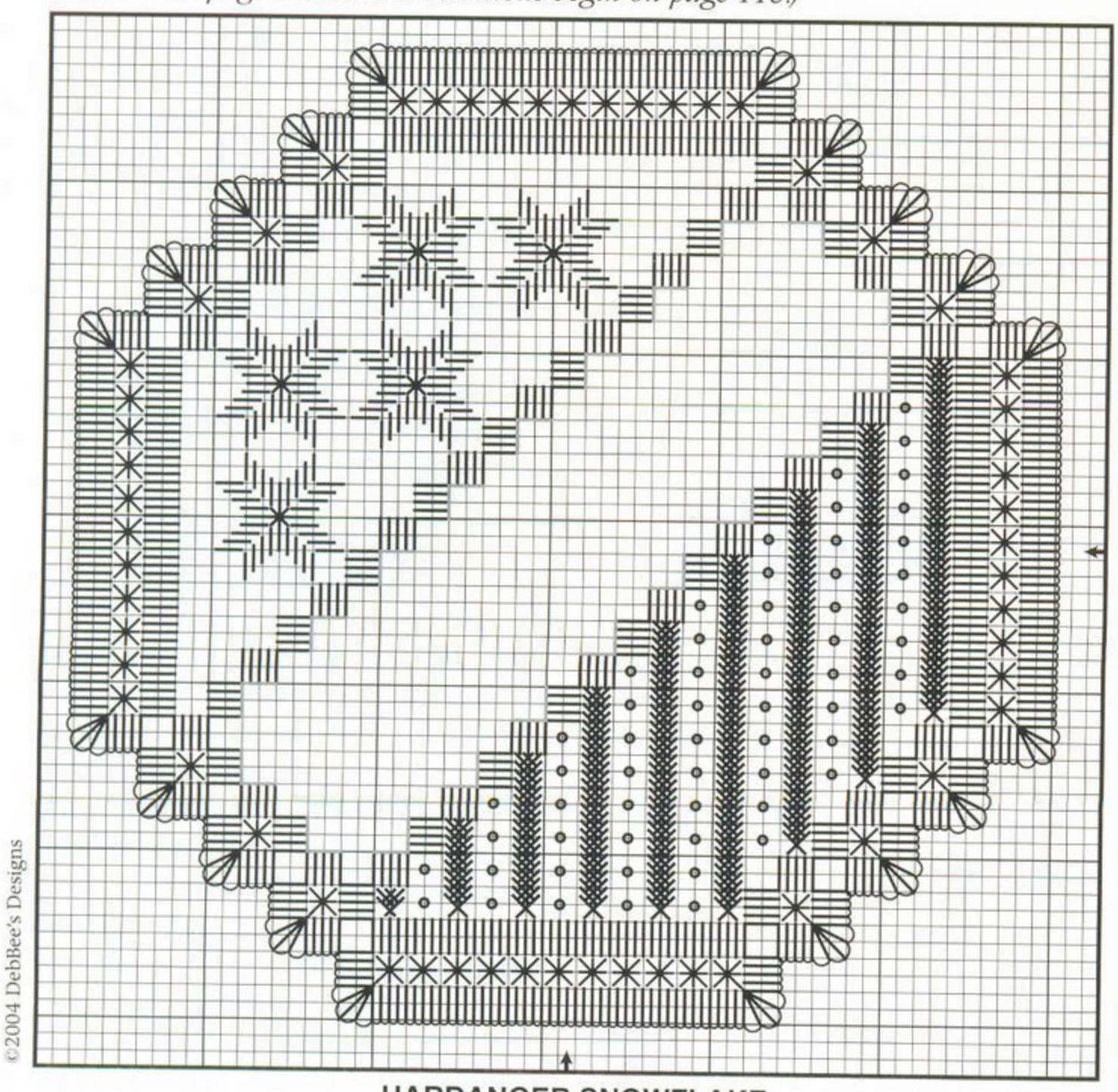
ILL. 3

ILL. 4

COMPLETED TASSEL

©2004 Cross-Eyed Cricket Inc.

(Photo is on page 15. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 DebBee's Designs

HARDANGER SNOWFLAKE

HARDANGER SNOW FLAKE ORNAMENT

Designed by Debbie Rowley of DebBee's Designs

Caron Collection Watercolours®
025 holiday

Caron Collection Waterlilies®
025 holiday

DMC® Coton Perlé #12
1 white

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4
✳ 002 gold (Algerian-eye stitch)

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
○ 00557 gold

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count white Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 58H x 58W
Design size: 4¼" x 4¼"

Instructions: Work kloster blocks, using one strand of Watercolours®.

Work buttonhole stitch for outside edge of ornament, using one strand of Watercolours®.

Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads, using one strand of very fine braid and pulling each leg of stitch slightly to open hole in center of stitch.

Work satin-stitch stars, using two strands of Waterlilies®.

Work fern-stitch columns over four fabric threads, using two strands of Waterlilies®.

Cut fabric threads along kloster blocks where indicated by gray lines on chart. Carefully remove the cut threads. Work woven bars on the remaining fabric threads, using one strand coton perlé.

Work Maltese interlacing through the woven bars, using three strands of Watercolours®.

Attach beads, using one strand of Waterlilies® and a cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Trim excess fabric from buttonhole-stitch edge, being careful not to clip stitches. Hanger loop was made using very fine braid.

Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.

Pat Carson

I love Christmas! I get such a warm feeling when my grandchildren tell me what special food they want with Christmas dinner. There are several favorites, but this Jell-O® salad is always at the top of the list. I hope you will share it with your family this holiday season and remember to count the blessings we all share as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Grandma Pat's Cranberry Jell-O® Salad

2 c. water
1 (6-oz.) pkg. strawberry Jell-O®
1 (15-oz.) can crushed pineapple, undrained
1 (16-oz.) can whole berry cranberry sauce, separated well with fork
1 c. chopped pecans or walnuts

Boil water, pour over Jell-O®, and stir until completely dissolved. Add pineapple and cranberry sauce. Stir well. Chill in refrigerator until partially set. Add pecans or walnuts and pour into 6-cup Jell-O® mold or a 9" x 13" glass dish.

DESIGNS BY Gloria & Pat ®

GREETINGS FROM CAMP GRANDMA

Designed by Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.

DMC®

v	321	red
o	352	coral, lt.
6	700	green, bt.
×	725	topaz
–	726	topaz, lt.
//	740	tangerine
s	762	pearl gray, vy. lt.
·	3865	winter white
bs	3371	black-brown
bs	3755	baby blue
	5284	gold

DMC® Coton Perlé #8

712 cream

Mill Hill Frosted Glass Beads

▲ 62014 frosted black

Mill Hill Size 8 Beads

● 18011 Victorian gold

JHB Camp Grandma® Button

24059 yellow striped star

Fabric: Two 8" x 7" pieces 28-count cream linen from DMC®
Stitch count: 72H x 58W
Design size: 5¼" x 4¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work eyelet stitch for snowflakes, using one strand 726 and one strand 5284.

Attach bead for eye, using two strands 3371 and a cross stitch.

Attach button, using two strands 725. (**NOTE:** Charted star indicates button placement and is not to be stitched when button is to be used.)

Work chain stitch over four threads for border, using one strand coton perlé. (**NOTE:** Work chain-stitch border only on second piece of linen for backing.)

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

3371	duck
3755	ground
700	solid-line lettering
321	dotted-line lettering

Finishing instructions: Trim excess fabric to within ½" of chain-stitch borders. Finger press seam allowance to back along chain-stitch borders. With wrong sides of fabric together, lace chain-stitch borders together, using one strand of coton perlé and adding a bead on every lacing stitch, as shown on chart. Leave small opening for stuffing. After stuffing, lace opening closed. Hanger was made using Kreinik® 002 Heavy Braid #32.

Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.
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DESIGNS BY
Gloria & Pat
®

(Photo is on page 23. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

GREETINGS FROM CAMP GRANDMA

Camp Grandma®
© Jessica Breelove Designs
Concept by Margee Wolcott
Licensed exclusively by Maximum Licensing

Camp Grandma®

Visit *www.craftsetc.com* for more Hobby Lobby exclusives from Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.

For more Camp Grandma®, visit *www.campgrandma.com.*

Designs From Margaret Lee

Margaret Lee Rigiel

Sometimes we are blessed with wonderful, yet challenging, career opportunities that lead us far away from the security of home, family, and long-time friends. By accepting these opportunities, we pay a dear price, one that eventually becomes higher as time goes on: the loss of time we could have spent with people we love. We missed many dinners, picnics, showers, and holidays with loved ones by moving to Maryland. And now that we have moved to Missouri, 900 miles away from two of our three children, the price has escalated.

For this first time in our lives, we could not spend Christmas with them. Yes, they were "home" in Missouri for Thanksgiving, but the event was tarnished by the fact that they would be alone in Maryland for Christmas with no family around. It was a long, lonely holiday season for us, even with our new little shop mascot, KuJoe to cheer us up.

What is in the past cannot be changed, but the future can be brighter. We look toward the future with hope and try to do what *really* matters in life. What really matters is being together in heart and soul, even if we can't be together in person. This year my *Just CrossStitch* ornament is called "Together at Christmas." We hope your holiday season is filled with togetherness!

(Photo is on page 12. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Designed by Margaret Lee Rigiel of Designs From Margaret Lee

Au Ver A Soie®
Soie d'Alger®

♥	2936	dusty rose, vy. dk.
R	2934	dusty rose, med. dk.
○	3014	raspberry, dk.
■	1345	lavender, vy. dk.
3	1344	lavender, dk.
△	1343	lavender, med. dk.
✳	2514	autumn yellow, med.
bs	4126	cocoa, vy. dk.

Gloriana Threads Silk Floss

016	holiday green

Kreinik® 1/16" Ribbon

001	silver

Kreinik® Fine Braid #8

002J	Japan gold

Kreinik® Blending Filament

002HL	gold, hi lustre

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count latte Country French linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 48H x 48W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads for outline of ball ornaments, using one strand 4126.

Work fly stitch for pine needles, using two strands 016.

Work diagonal satin stitch for interior of ball ornaments, using one strand of 1/16" ribbon.

Couch one strand of fine braid where gray lines appear for hangers of ball ornaments, using one strand of blending filament.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Ruched fabric trim was wrapped with Kreinik® 008HL Fine Braid. Kreinik® 002J Fine Braid was used for hanger. Bow was made using 1/8"-wide red ribbon.

Designs From Margaret Lee
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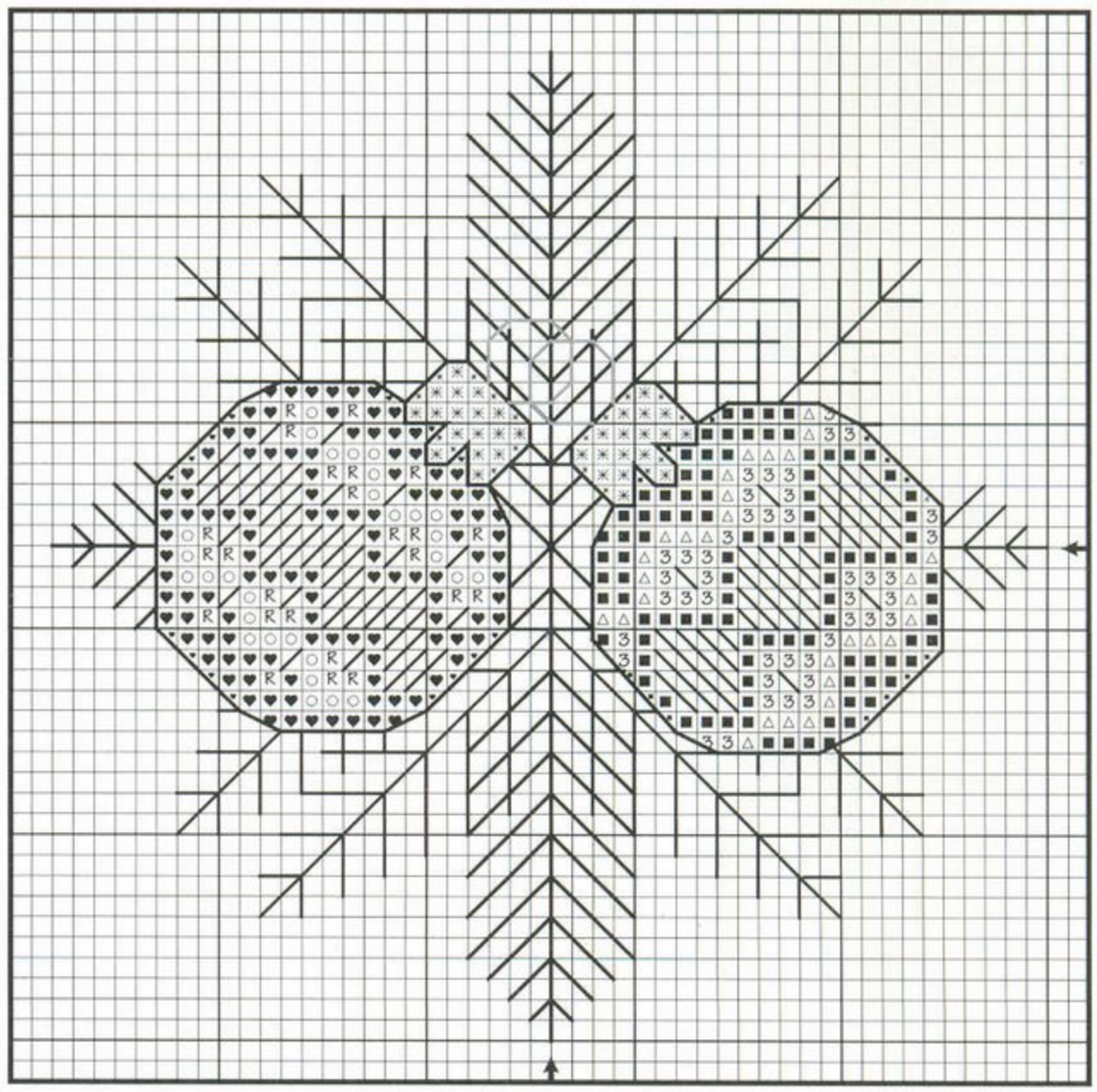


©2004 Designs From Margaret Lee

TOGETHER AT CHRISTMAS

Dragon Dreams

Jennifer Aikman-Smith

This past year was the first Christmas we have spent at home since Bethany was born, and it was wonderful! While we may certainly travel to see friends and family right after Christmas some other year, I now know why someone wrote the song, "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays"!

This year's ornament is dedicated to all those who are wise enough to know that you are NEVER too big to keep that childlike wonder alive in your heart! This year's recipe is a new discovery that became last year's must-make treat. Enjoy, and happy holidays!

"Worth-Hoarding" Chocolate Bars

1 c. butter or margarine, softened
½ c. sugar
⅛ tsp. salt
2 c. all-purpose flour
1 (14-oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
1 c. semisweet chocolate chips
½ c. chopped walnuts or pecans
½ tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 300°.

With an electric mixer, beat butter on high for 30 seconds in a large bowl. Beat in sugar and salt, scraping sides. Beat in flour on low until combined. Press two-thirds of the mixture into the bottom of an ungreased 13" x 9" baking pan.

In a medium saucepan, combine sweetened condensed milk and chocolate chips for filling. Stir over low heat until the chocolate melts and the mixture is smooth. Remove from heat to add nuts and vanilla. Spread hot mixture over crust. Sprinkle remaining crust mixture as topping.

Bake for 35 minutes or until golden. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack and cut into squares. Store in the refrigerator for up to three days (if you can make them last that long) or freeze up to three months.

NEVER TOO BIG

Designed by Jennifer Aikman-Smith of Dragon Dreams

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
★	414	235	steel gray, dk.
4 [	414	235	steel gray, dk.
4 [	415	398	pearl gray
/	415	398	pearl gray
.	blanc	2	white
♥	814	45	garnet, dk.
ш	818	23	baby pink
▲	986	246	forest, vy. dk.
$	987	244	forest, dk.
X	988	243	forest, med.
○	989	242	forest
ℓ [	989	242	forest
ℓ [	676	891	old gold, lt.
~	676	891	old gold, lt.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

✳	850	mallard

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

◑	0390	buckeye scarlet

Fiddlestitch Cottage Buttons

+	XP-01	Christmas present

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count light taupe Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 56H x 57W
Design size: 4" x 4⅛"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work colonial knot where ● appears, using two strands of floss.

Attach button, using two strands of matching floss.

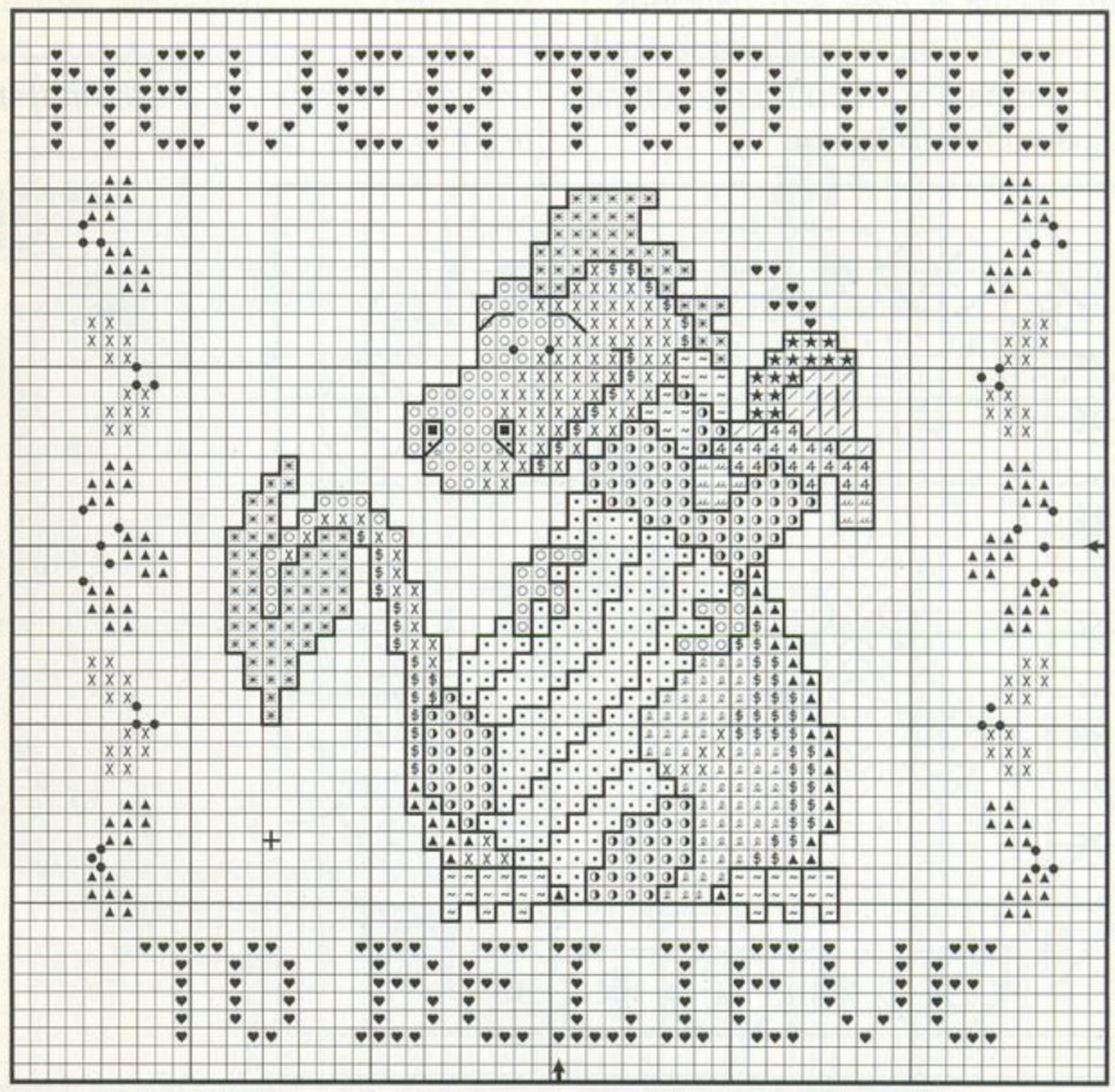
Backstitch instructions:

0390		stripes on stocking
310	403	remainder of backstitch

Colonial-knot instructions:

0390		berries in borders
310	403	eyes

(Photo is on page 23. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 Dragon Dreams

NEVER TOO BIG

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording hanger was made using 814/45, 986/246, 987/244, 988/243, and 989/242. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

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Elizabeth's Designs

Elizabeth Foster

This recipe is easy and delicious. I serve it warm from a crockpot for buffet-style dinners or when friends join us for a special football game.

Glazed Beef Balls

½ c. bread crumbs
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
1 Tbsp. grated onion
½ tsp. horseradish
1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 egg
½ c. tomato juice
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1 lb. lean ground beef

Combine all ingredients except beef in a mixing bowl. Add to beef and stir well. Chill at least one hour. Shape meat into balls about the size of walnuts. Place on shallow baking pan or cookie sheet; bake at 500° for 10–12 minutes, or until browned. Add to glaze and heat.

Makes about 24.

Glaze:

¼ c. brown sugar
2 Tbsp. flour
1 tsp. dry mustard
¼ c. chili sauce
¼ c. dark corn syrup
½ tsp. salt
¼ c. orange juice

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Cook on stovetop and stir until slightly thickened.

(Photo is on page 19. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

©2004 Elizabeth's Designs

CHRISTMAS JEWELS

CHRISTMAS JEWELS

Designed by Elizabeth Foster of Elizabeth's Designs

Kreinik® Silk Mori®

■	8050	black
X	4206	sage, dk.
	2015	gold, med. dk.
	3017	coral, vy. dk.
	5014	navy, med.
	6083	grape, lt.
	7124	cream
	7135	bark, med. dk.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

○	032	pearl

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 32-count toasted almond Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 38H x 38W
Design size: 2 3/8" x 2 3/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work leaf stitch for trees, using two strands 4206.

Work satin stitch where gray lines appear for sheep's wool, using two strands 7124.

Work rounded Rhodes stitch over four threads, using one strand 6083.

Work star stitch over six threads, using one strand 2015

Work diagonal elongated Smyrna cross stitch, using one strand 5014.

Backstitch instructions:

7135	tree trunks
8050	sheep's legs
6083	date
3017	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using five strands of Kreinik® 032 Medium Braid #16. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

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Erica Michaels Designs

Linda Stoltz

Even before I located this old photo, I could visualize these "dress-ups" in my mind. When my sister, Dianne, and I were small (we're pictured here with our great-grandmother, who was 94 at the time), we always looked forward to a special package from our aunt Arlene, a talented seamstress.

Sometime in the weeks prior to the holidays, on a visit to Grandma's, Aunt Arlene would be there with her tape measure and update her measurements on a little index card that she had for each of us. Then, during those weeks leading up to Christmas, she would create. She would shop local second-hand shops looking for garments that could be re-made or that were fashioned of fabrics she could use in some way. Then, behold: on Christmas Day at the evening gathering at Grandma and Grandpa's, we would each get a box full of marvelous dress-up clothes for us to enjoy in endless hours of play. I remember them as a "large" assortment from casual to dressy, but the one that stands out most in my memory is the burgundy velvet top with the gold brocade skirt. I was nine years old, and I felt so pretty!

After a few years, we outgrew the dress-ups themselves, as well as the desire for that type of play; but the appreciation for the love and care she sewed into these special gifts is never outgrown at all.

JOY

Designed by Linda Stolz of Erica Michaels Designs

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

. 0420 gold leaf
X 0330 cherry wine
★ 0120 pine
■ 0840 royal purple

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

○ 00557 gold
@ 02090 brilliant navy

Fabric: 6" x 7" piece 32-count natural linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 37H x 52W
Design size: $2\frac{3}{8}$" x $3\frac{3}{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work Rhodes stitch over four threads, using two strands 0840.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using 0330 and 0840. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Bows were made using $\frac{1}{4}$"-wide royal purple ribbon.

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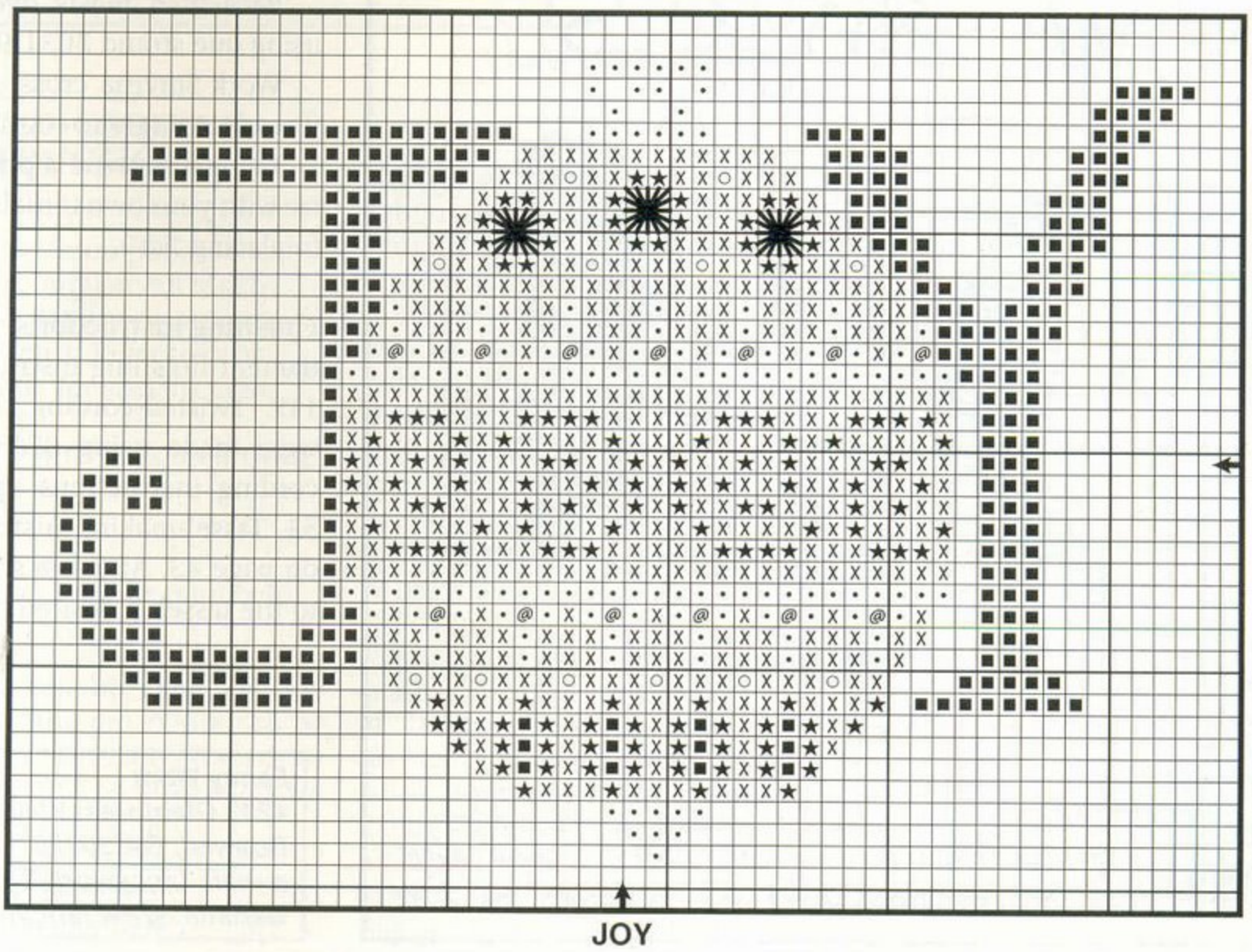
(Photo is on page 113. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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Fancy Work

Jane Timmers

One of my favorite activities during the holidays is singing at the midnight service on Christmas Eve. My choir at St. David's Episcopal Church sings a special concert preceding the mass. Many of my Christmas designs have been inspired by a text from the carols that we sing, from "I Saw Three Ships" to "There is No Rose" to "Once in Royal David's City." This year I offer a companion to my 1999 ornament: "I Saw Three Ships." The words of this carol were first published in 1666. The three ships were originally meant to represent the wise men, but later they came to symbolize the Holy Family.

Our meal on Christmas Day must always include Garlic Mashed Potatoes. Several years ago, my sons decided that these potatoes must accompany any celebration meal, from birthdays to holidays.

Garlic Mashed Potatoes

8 medium-large red creamer potatoes, unpeeled, scrubbed, and cut in half
8 cloves garlic, peeled
½ c. milk
¼ c. margarine, softened
Salt and pepper to taste

Place potatoes and garlic in 3-quart saucepan; add water to cover. Cover and heat to boiling; reduce heat and simmer 20–25 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Drain. Shake potatoes in saucepan over low heat to dry.

Mash potatoes and garlic in the saucepan or a bowl until no lumps remain. While mashing, add milk in small amounts. Add margarine, salt, and pepper. Beat vigorously until potatoes are light and fluffy (or don't beat as much for more textured potatoes).

Makes 6 servings.

I SAW THREE SHIPS

Designed by Jane Timmers of Fancy Work

	DMC®	Anchor®	
▲	924	851	gray-green, vy. dk.
X	926	850	gray-green, med.
$	3362	263	pine green, dk.
○	3363	262	pine green, med.
■	3031	905	mocha, vy. dk. (over one)
&	3781	1050	mocha brown, dk. (over one)
◆	829	906	olive, vy. dk. (over one)
B	3768	779	gray-green, dk. (over one)
✳	3829	901	old gold, vy. dk. (over one)
☆	676	891	old gold, lt. (over one)
●	550	101	violet, vy. dk. (over one)
☽	642	392	beige-gray, dk. (over one)
♥	902	897	garnet, vy. dk. (Smyrna cross stitch)

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 32-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 63H x 59W
Design size: 4" x 3¾"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over one thread for small symbols, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch masts over one thread, using one strand 3031/905.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Using a favorite alphabet, personalize with your own initials at lower point (replacing "jct").

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and tassel were made using 3768/779. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 43. Attach a small star charm to the tassel, if desired.

let's make snow angels!

you don't even have to wait for snow! just pick up your needle and create this guardian angel of snowmen with kreinik very fine #4 braid & silk mori.

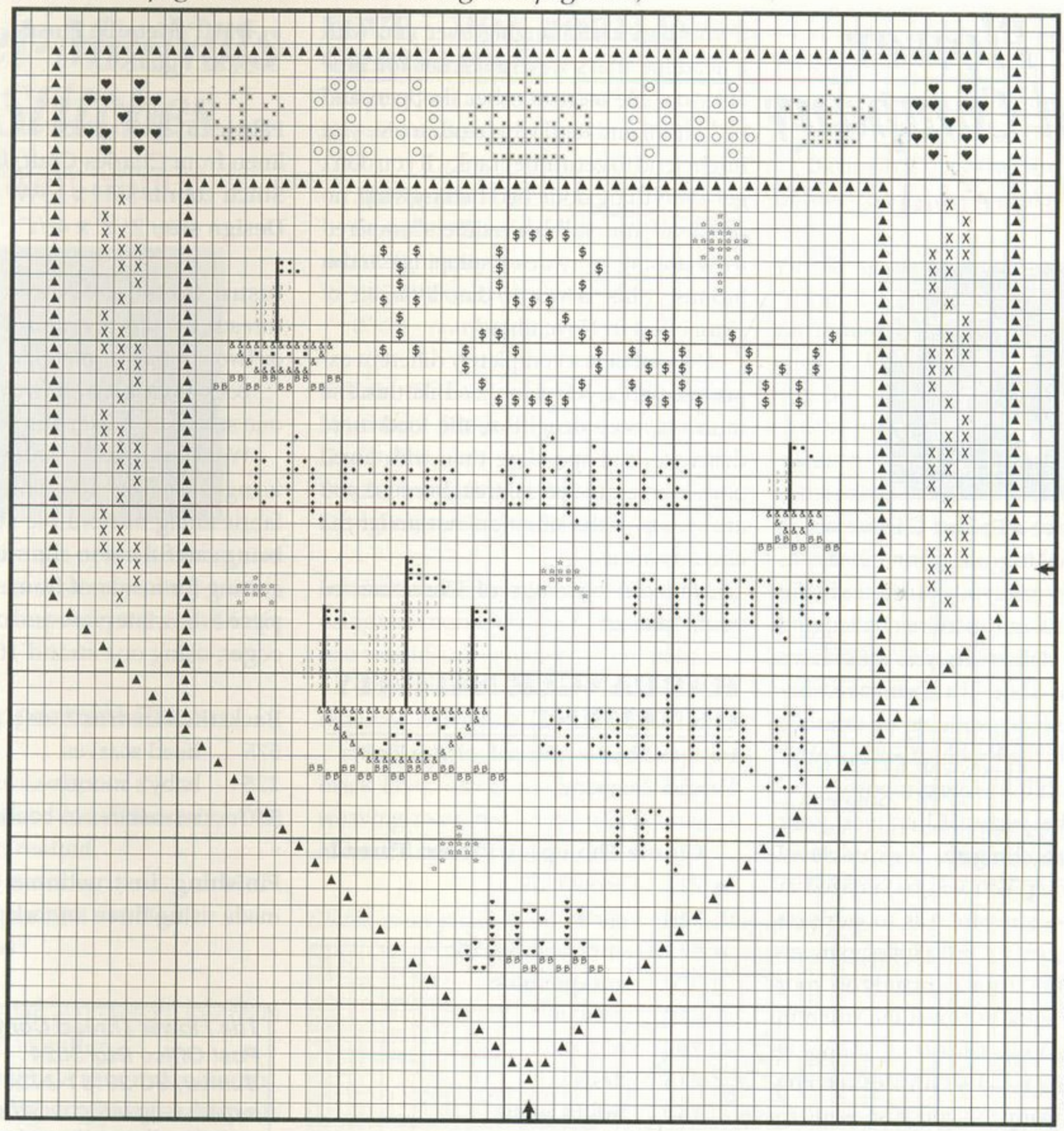
Kreinik

the free pattern is available in the "freebies" section on www.kreinik.com

or get a copy by sending a #10 self-addressed, stamped envelope to: snow angel, 3106 lord baltimore drive #101, baltimore md 21244

Fancy Work
4233 Glenforest Way
Roswell, GA 30075
e-mail: fancywork@bellsouth.net
website: www.fancywork.net

(Photo is on page 12. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 Fancy Work

I SAW THREE SHIPS

TWISTED-CORDING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Embroidery floss, coton perlé, or other fiber to complement stitchery (**NOTE:** To determine amount needed, see Step 1. Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)
Heavy key chain with keys (to provide weight)
Twist tie
Cup-hook screw
Cordless or electric drill **or** mini cording drill

NOTE: Cording can be made by one person; however, the procedure can be awkward at times, especially when dealing with long lengths of floss–an extra set of hands is always helpful.

1. To determine the amount of floss needed, multiply by three the desired length of the cording, making sure to include any length needed for hangers when finishing ornaments. Place all lengths of floss together and tie a knot in each end.

2. Place cup-hook screw in drill instead of a bit. Make certain cup-hook screw is securely in place.

3. Slip one knotted end of floss onto cup-hook screw. Slip other knotted end over a small knob. Pull drill so that floss is taut. Turn on drill. Floss will begin to twist. Continue twisting until floss is very tightly twisted and is about to twist up on itself. Turn off drill. Do **not** remove twisted floss from cup-hook screw or knob.

4. Using a twist tie, attach key chain to center of twisted floss. Remove floss ends from cup-hook screw and knob, being extremely careful not to let go of ends and keeping twisted floss taut. With key chain in the center of twisted floss, bring knotted ends together and allow weight of key chain to twist the floss evenly. When the twisting is complete, secure the knotted ends with another knot and remove twist tie and key chain.

Tips for Making Two-Color Cording:

- Determine length of floss according to Step 1 above.
- Bring together two ends of one color, referring to Illustration A. Slip one end of other color through circle formed by first color and tie a knot so that another circle is formed. (See Illustration B.)
- Continue with Step 2.

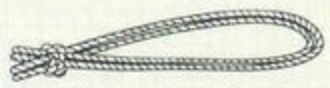


ILLUSTRATION A

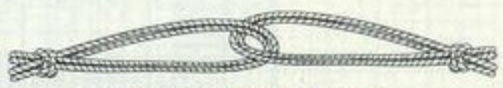


ILLUSTRATION B

The Flower Thread Company

Meg Shinall

How to Have a Perfect Christmas

Start by making out your gift list in October. Carry it in your purse and take a few days to fill in the more challenging recipients. By Halloween, you must have reviewed it and whittled it down to reasonable prices and investments of time. Be serious; are you really going to make Aunt Sue a tablecloth in the next month?

To have the perfect Christmas, your shopping and stitching must be completed by Thanksgiving. You will be amazed at how much less stressful it is to work on gifts in November. It's still a lot of extra effort on top of the usual demands on your time, but it's better in November than in December. If you go Christmas shopping in December, it's because you are keeping someone company, or you just want to hear the music and see the displays. This makes you a kinder, gentler shopper than if you had it all hanging over you with a deadline that's way too close! You'll be able to smile more at other shoppers and be helpful and kind where otherwise you might tend to get a little cranky. If you don't get everything done by Thanksgiving, no problem! You still have time. Compared to wrapping up thread snippings and a promise, this is worth that little bit of extra effort in November.

December is a completely different experience when you plan ahead like this. The music is more delightful, the food more delicious, and spending time with loved ones is an extra special treat because you are on top of the situation, not under the circumstances.

May the blessings of Christmas be yours forever!

HARDANGER NATIVITY ORNAMENT

Designed by Meg Shinall of The Flower Thread Company

Ginnie Thompson Flower Thread

■	725	brown, dk.
Ƀ	720	earth
●	575	antique blue, dk.
X	570	antique blue
☆	310	gold, lt.
♡	205	blush
/	215	flesh
.	150	bright white
bs	225	brick red, med.
	100	white

DMC® Metallic Floss

✳	5282	gold, lt.

Fabric: 5" x 8" piece 28-count cream linen from Charles Craft, Inc.
Stitch count: 35H x 63W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 4 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of flower thread or two strands of metallic floss.

Backstitch (bs) over two threads, using one strand of flower thread.

Work buttonhole stitch for borders, using one strand 100. Trim away excess fabric along buttonhole-stitch borders, being careful not to clip stitches. Repeat cutting for inside of frame. Place frame piece over scene piece and overcast outer edges, using one strand 100.

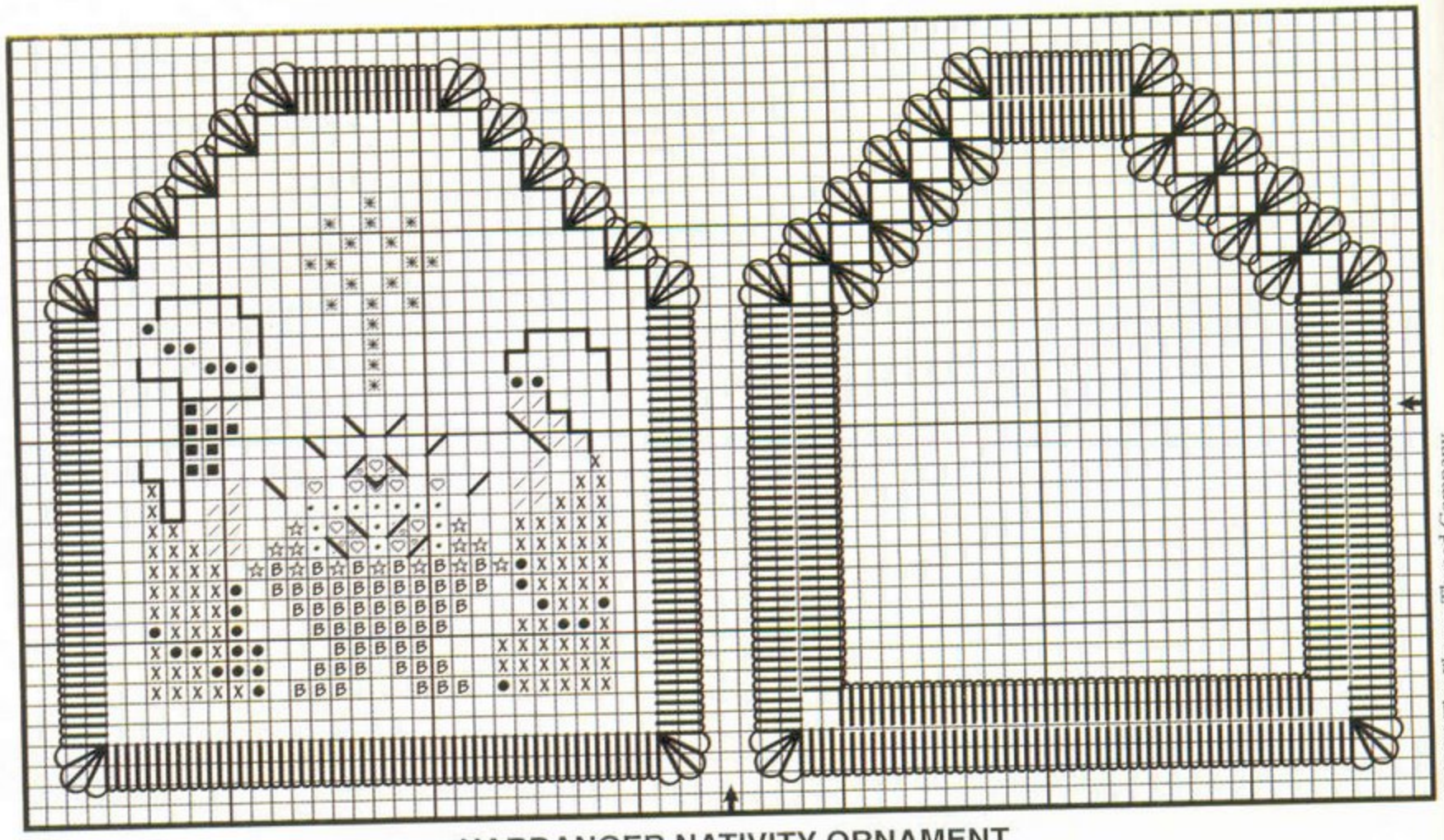
Backstitch instructions:

575	head scarves
225	baby's mouth
310	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Hanger was made using three strands 5282.

The Flower Thread Company
Post Office Box 3024
Sumter, SC 29151-3024
e-mail: megastitcher@hotmail.com
website: flowerthread.com

(Photo is on page 16. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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HARDANGER NATIVITY ORNAMENT

Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches

Lauren Sauer

I love peppermint, no matter what time of year! Here is a very yummy-tasting pie that you can prepare ahead. I hope you'll try it.

Peppermint Pie

1 qt. vanilla ice cream
1 c. crushed chocolate wafers (about 15)
3 Tbsp. butter, melted
1/2 c. chopped pecans
1/3 c. hard peppermint candies
8 pecan halves

Preheat oven to 300°. Set out ice cream in a large bowl to soften.

In an 8" pie plate, mix wafer crumbs, melted butter, and chopped pecans; press mixture into bottom and up sides of the pie plate, building up a 1/3" rim. Bake for 8 minutes. Cool on a wire rack, then refrigerate.

Place peppermint candies in a clean paper bag; finely crush by pounding with a wooden rolling pin. Set a few candy chunks aside for garnish. Mix the crushed candy into the softened ice cream, then place the bowl in the freezer for about 30 minutes, or until firm enough to hold shape.

Spoon the ice-cream mixture into the chilled crust; garnish the top with the pecan halves and the reserved chunks of candy. Wrap with freezer wrap or foil, keeping it away from the surface of the ice cream. Freeze.

To serve, thaw pie slightly in the refrigerator for 15–30 minutes. Cut into wedges. Makes 8–12 servings. Enjoy!

LOVE. . .WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS

Designed by Lauren Sauer of Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- ■ 0120 pine
- X 0150 evergreen (over one)
- 0360 cranberry

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 30-count cream Northern Cross linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.
Stitch count: 80H x 80W
Design size: 5 1/3" x 5 1/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Work stem stitch over two threads for red lines, using one strand 0360.

Work stem stitch over two threads for black lines, using one strand 0120 and weaving over and under 0360 lines as indicated on chart.

Work backstitch stitch over two threads for gray lines, using one strand 0150 and weaving over and under 0360 lines and 0120 lines as indicated on chart.

Backstitch over two threads for outer border, using one strand 0360.

Finishing instructions: Trim fabric to within 1/4" of backstitch border and turn under along backstitches, mitering corners. Fold corners in until they meet, forming a square; press. Cut cardboard to fit within that square. Place cardboard inside stitched piece. Weave corners together through backstitches, using one strand 0360.

Attach jump ring at top. Decorate edges with evenly spaced Mill Hill 03049 Antique Glass Beads, attached using one strand 0360. Hanger was made using 1/4"-wide burgundy ribbon.

Forget-Me-Nots in Stitches
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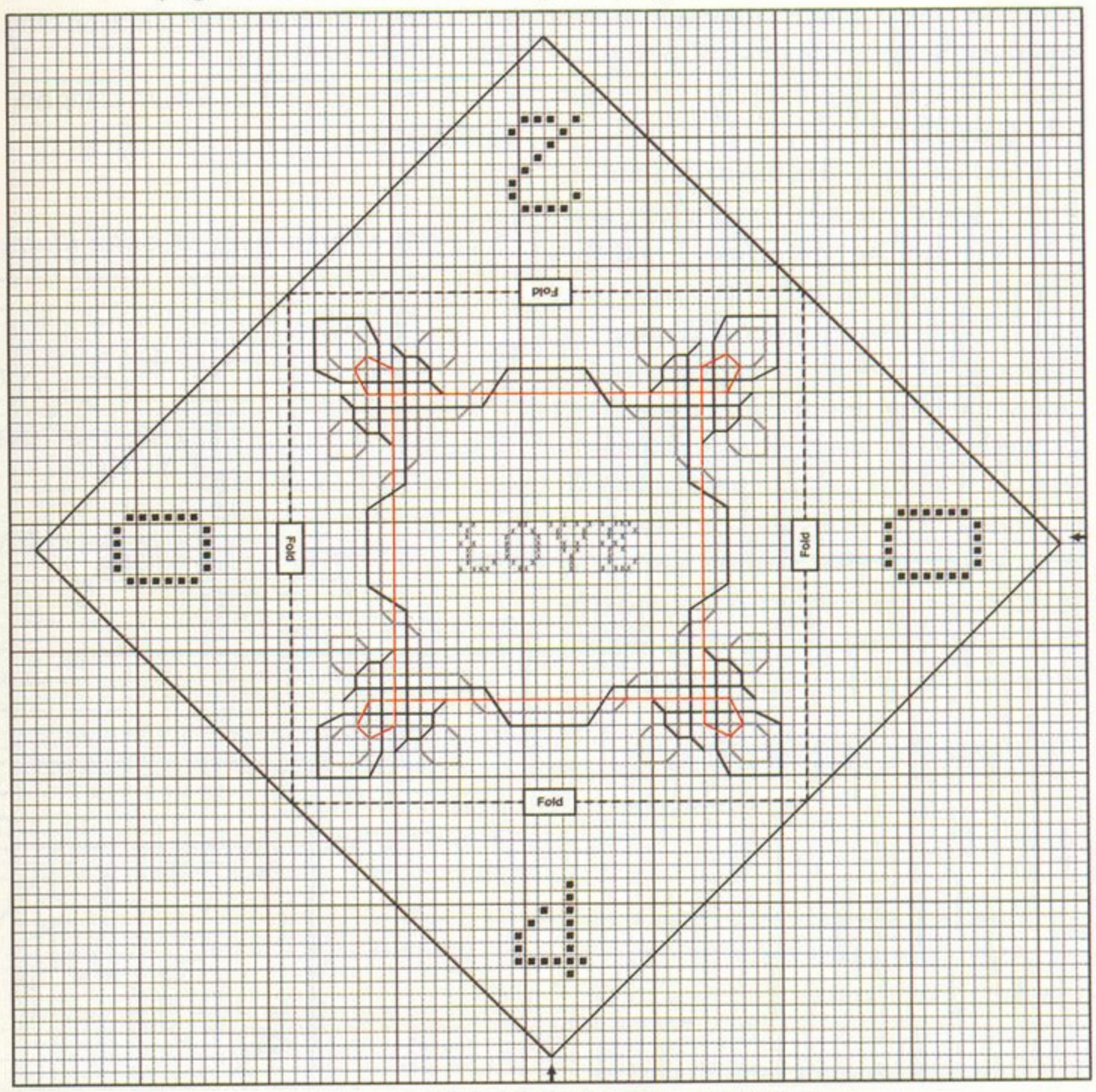
website: www.forgetmenotsinstitches.com

(Photo is on page 13 Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



LOVE . . . WAS BORN AT CHRISTMAS

©2004 Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches

From Merry's Heart

Merry Cox

I returned home from teaching at Christmas in Willliamsburg 2002 knowing that, at last, I was going to move into my new studio/office. Dan had completed all the painting and remodeling, so now it was a matter of moving.

We got home late one evening to a ringing phone. It was our daughter, Anna, enquiring about how the move was going, and she said she and our son-in-law wanted to come by for a minute. She said they were bringing the "grandkid" with them, so that was my cue to put our cat outside. (Anna usually referred to their dog as the "granddog," so I thought it was a little strange that she called him the "grandkid.")

The kids walked in the back door—no dog. I asked Anna where the dog was, and she said he was home. I had this big question mark on my face, and Anna said, "Mom, I said we were bringing the 'grandkid' with us." Then she handed me something, and Robert handed Dan something. We each received a picture frame saying, "I love Grandma" and "I love Grandpa." Well, I'm sure you heard my screams of joy! That was the best of the Christmas gifts knowing that we would be grandparents in August 2003. Here is our precious bundle of joy, Zara Merry.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Designed by Merry Cox of From Merry's Heart

Gloriana Threads Silk Floss

X 010 winter woods
◑ 011 jacaranda

Gloriana Threads Luminescence

■ 088 seaweed

Needlepoint Inc. Silk

● 147 old rose, dk. (over one)

Au Ver A Soie® Soie d'Alger®

2226 olive green

The Caron Collection Waterlilies™

182 graphite

Kreinik® Blending Filament

002HL gold, hi lustre

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 40-count Norfolk blend linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count:

Upper Panel	30H x 54W
Lower Panel	14H x 38W

Design size:

Upper Panel	1 1/2" x 2 3/4"
Lower Panel	3/4" x 1 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work French knot where ● appears for eye, using one strand 011 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work straight stitch for stars, using one strand 002HL.

Work stem stitch over two threads for borders, using one strand 088.

Personalize using a favorite backstitch alphabet and one strand 182. (**NOTE:** Outline indicates personalization area only and is not to be backstitched.)

Backstitch instructions:

2226	trees, branch (over one)
011	reindeer's horns, tail, and hooves
010	date
182	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Press needlework. Trim seam allowances to 1/2" beyond stem stitch border of each needlework piece.

Cut posterboard, batting and Ultra Suede® to fit inside the stem stitch border of each needlework piece.

Layer needlework, batting, and posterboard. Fold seam allowances to wrong side and glue in place.

Cut one 18" length of ribbon. Lay behind needlework pieces and glue to wrong side of needlework pieces.

Glue Ultra Suede® to back of each piece. Blind stitch edges.

From Merry's Heart
306 Bullard Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612
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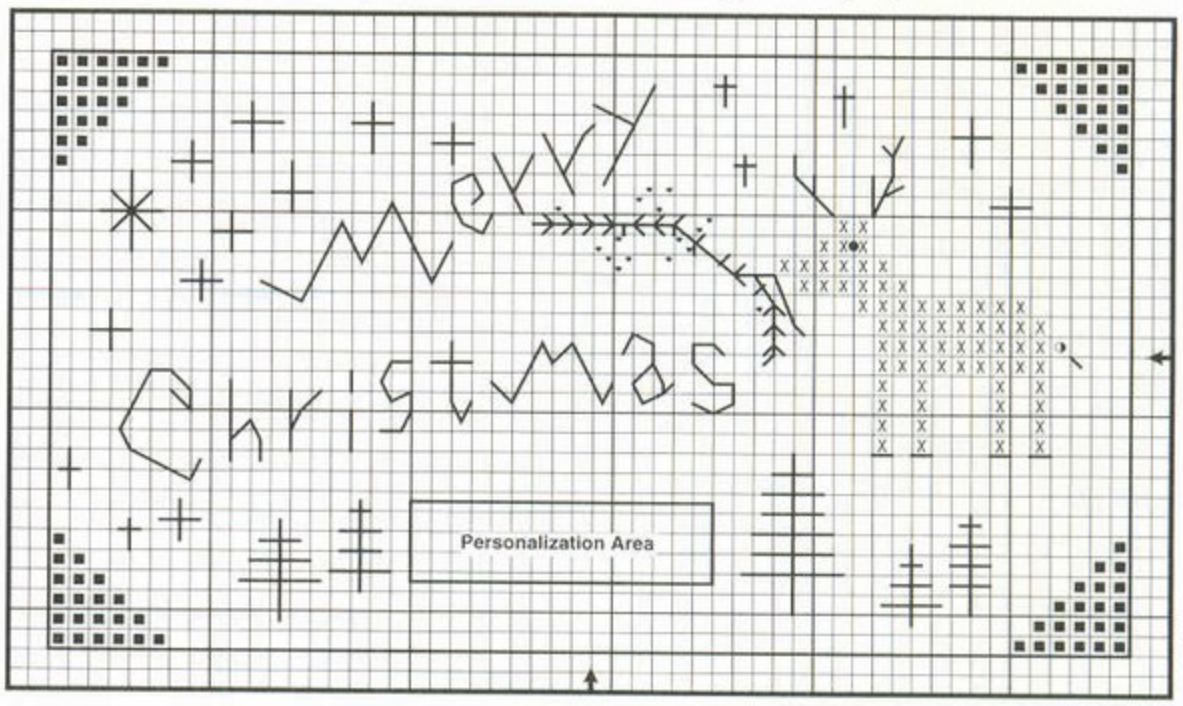
(Photo is on page 18. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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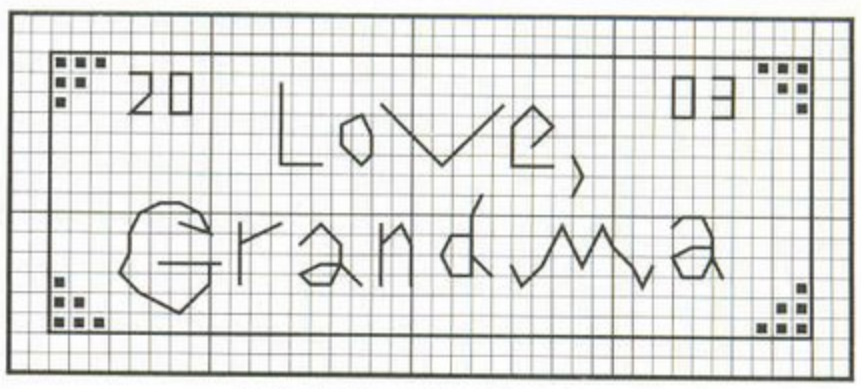

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Nan's Hand

Nan Strange

For many years, we have had a Christmas caroling party for our neighbors. All the families gather at our house, and we warm up our voices. Once everyone has arrived, we go a-caroling. Everyone carries their music and flashlight. After we trudge around town singing our hearts out and having a great time, we return, usually frozen, to savory nibbles, cookies, and this hot wassail. The wassail's aroma makes the house feel welcoming. This party gives us a chance to catch up with our neighbors and wish them a blessed Christmas. We send them all home with a bundle of homemade cookies. I hope you enjoy this recipe for many years in good health.

Hot Wassail

1 qt. cranberry juice
1 qt. apple juice
1 small container frozen orange-juice concentrate*
1 small container frozen lemonade concentrate*
1/4–1 c. sugar, to taste
1 tsp. whole cloves
1 tsp. whole allspice
3 sticks cinnamon
**** Do NOT add water to dilute***

Place cranberry juice, apple juice, orange-juice concentrate, lemonade concentrate, and sugar in a 4-quart crockpot. Put cloves, allspice, and cinnamon in a tea diffuser or cheesecloth bag and add to liquid mixture. Place crockpot on high setting and cook for 30–45 minutes, then change setting to low until bubbly. Stir to mix in spices and serve in mugs. Enjoy!

BERRIES IN SNOW

Designed by Nan Strange of From Nan's Hand

Ginnie Thompson Flower Thread

■ 463 blue green, dk.
X 290 cranberry, dk. (Palestrina knot)

Londonderry 50/3 Linen Thread

5090 white

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count white Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 66H x 66W
Design size: 4 3/4" x 4 3/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work satin stitch for center motif, using one strand 290.

Work pulled diagonal cable stitch over two threads around center motif, using one strand 5090 and keeping an even tension.

Work Palestrina knot over two threads, using one strand 290.

Work stem stitch for outer border, using one strand 290.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Repeat stem-stitch border on backing linen, then lace the two pieces together through the stem-stitch borders, using a 3' strand of 290. Leave a 6" tail at the first corner when beginning lacing, and pick up one Mill Hill 62012 Frosted Glass Bead on every other lacing stitch. Upon reaching the opposite corner from the starting point, leave remaining floss as tail. Repeat on other side of ornament. Tie tails together at corner, then bead each tail strand. At bottom, knot to secure the two tails. At top, tie the two strands together, then run the remaining floss back through the beads to secure for hanger.

From Nan's Hand
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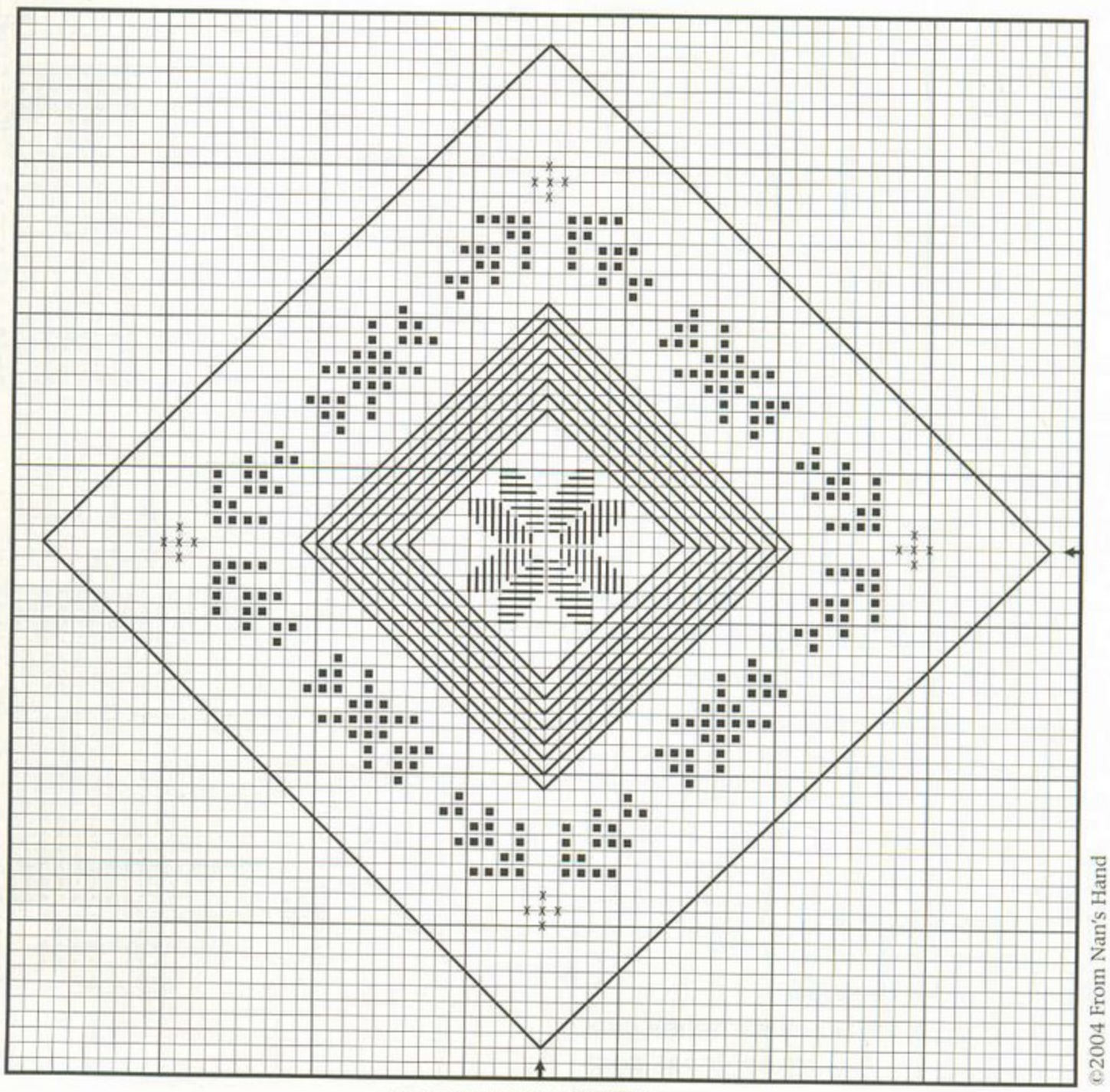
(Photo is on page 14. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 From Nan's Hand

BERRIES IN SNOW

Full Circle Designs

Lynda Watkins

Hobart, Oklahoma, where my husband, Gordon, grew up, is a small farming town with a big heart. In southwestern Oklahoma, the people are hard-working with strong family ties and a deep devotion to church and community. Our family was fortunate to have lived there for six years while Gordon attended Southwestern State University to study pharmacy (my daughter, Jennifer, and I are pictured here). Meeting Lorene Hazle there was definitely "heaven-sent"! When I think of Christmas blessings and the special gifts I've received over the years, I think of my friendship with Lorene. Her recipe for Christmas Pie is simple and sure to please!

Christmas Pie

1 (14-oz.) can Eagle Brand® sweetened-condensed milk
1 lemon, juiced
4–5 bananas, sliced
1 (15-oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
Vanilla wafers
1 c. whipped topping

Mix lemon juice and milk together until thick. Add bananas and pineapple. Pour mixture into dish lined with vanilla wafers. Top with a layer of whipped topping. Chill and serve.

Full Circle Designs
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website: www.fullcirclestitches.com

PERFECT GIFTS

Designed by Lynda Watkins of Full Circle Designs

	Needlepoint, Inc. Silk	DMC®	
■	404	895	forest green, med.
X	402	367	forest green, lt.
.	693	729	palomino gold, lt.
◑	226	221	berry red, dk.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

3	003	red

Rainbow Gallery Petite Treasure Braid

★	PB03	gold

Mill Hill Petite Seed Beads

●	42039	brilliant green

Just Another Button Company™

♥	3309T	tiny red heart

YLI Ribbon Floss

142-19	evergreen

Rainbow Gallery Splendor Silk Ribbon

R826	burgundy

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 40-count summer khaki Newcastle® linen from Zweigart
Stitch count: 68H x 52W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 2 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or one strand of braid.

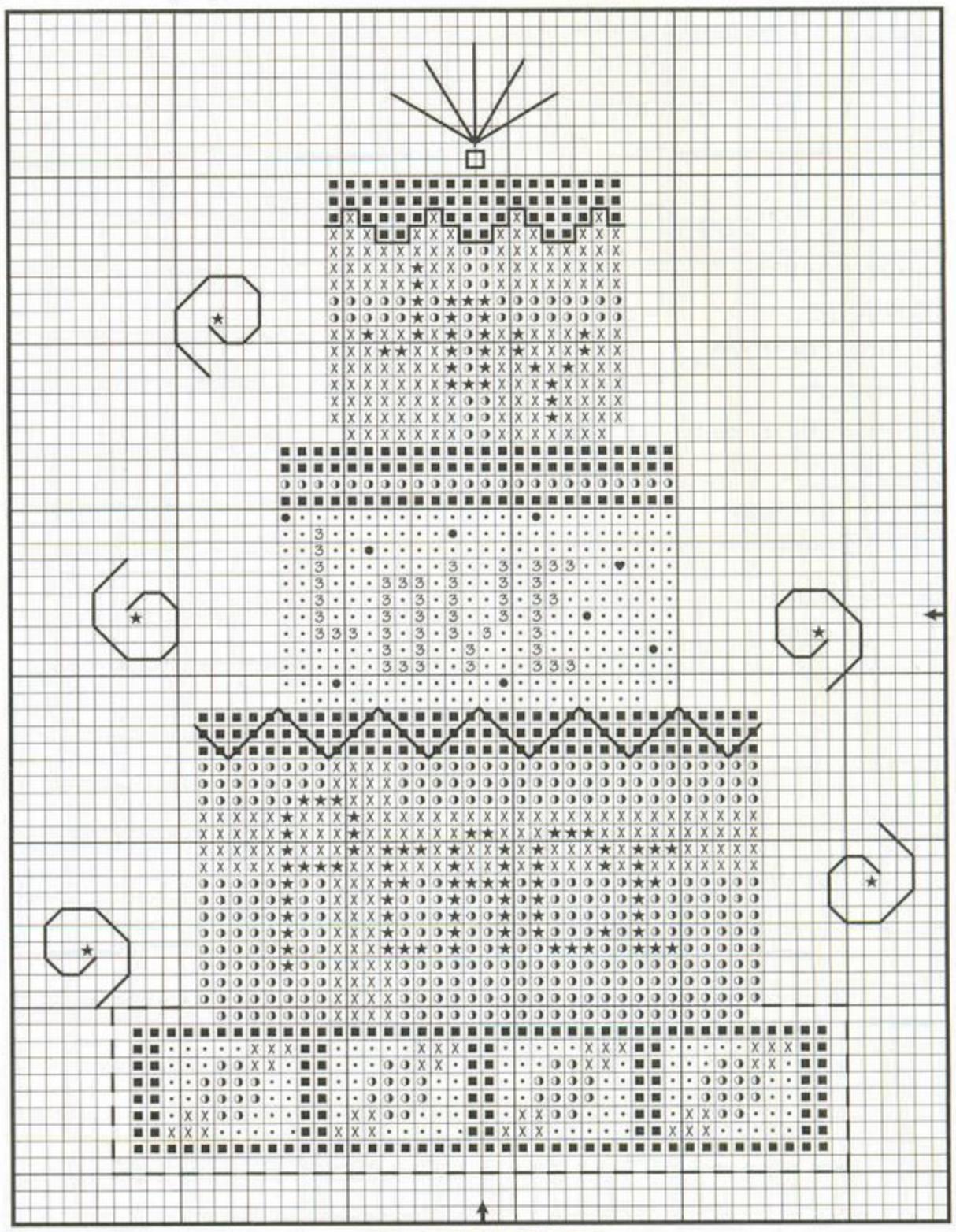
Backstitch swirls over two threads, using one strand PB03.

Work running stitch at base of gifts, using one strand 226/221.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch.

Work straight stitch for zig-zag trim on largest box top, using one strand 693/729.

(Photo is on page 12. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 Full Circle Designs

PERFECT GIFTS

Attach button, using one strand 236/221.

Work straight stitch for bow loops at top, using one strand of ribbon floss and couching tails of ribbon floss in place on either side of packages for lengths of curled ribbon.

Gather 8" length of ribbon into bow, securing at center and tacking onto design where □ appears, using one strand 236/221. Trim ends.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using 404/895, 226/221, and PB03. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 115. Bow was made using 1"-wide metallic gold, burgundy, and green wired ribbons.

Finishing by Magic by Mona

Gentle Pursuit Designs

Jaenn (Cissy) Bailey Smith

As I shuffled through years of photos to find one for this article, I realized two things. Thing one: I am usually the picture taker, not the takee. Thing two: I am abundantly blessed! My family and friends smiled out at me from photos taken over many years and reminded me of the happy times that we have had together. Granddaddy snapped this photo of my husband, daughter, and me at the Kings Arms Tavern during one of our extended-family December Williamsburg trips.

My ornament is a tribute to our 25-year-long Christmas Eve tradition. At 2:45 p.m., rain or shine, cold or terribly cold, we finish up whatever we are doing, settle the dogs, and head for the 5 p.m. service at Home Moravian Church in Old Salem, North Carolina, just 30 minutes west of our home in Greensboro. Home Moravian Church was built in 1800. It is a lovely brick building with stone windowsills, a rounded hood over each door, and gorgeous elliptical arched windows with intricate ogee tracery. We have a favorite section at the back of the church and always arrive early enough so that we can gather there. As I sit still for the first time in weeks, all my concerns outside the church doors evaporate. I sit with those I love so well and watch the Moravian Star gently turn above the crèche, narcissi, and poinsettias.

The service begins at 5 p.m. We sing traditional Moravian Christmas carols and anthems before the Moravian blessing. When a child walks to the microphone and begins to sing "Morning Star," I am transfixed. The child sings one verse, and then the congregation sings the next verse, taking turns through the song. When the music ends, the lights are dimmed. My eyes glisten when I see the glow preceding candle-filled trays coming through the two doors at the front of the sanctuary. Too soon, the Love Feast is over. We walk out of the church into the darkness of this remarkable community, load up, and drive back to our home where more family members and friends will join us. As I write this, Ben and I are excited about becoming grandparents in a few weeks! We cherish the family traditions of our childhood and those we have shared with our children and look forward to the new traditions that will take us into the future.

I researched sugar cookie recipes for about 30 years before I found this one. The cookies are just as delicious as those at Old Salem's Winkler Bakery, but the recipe is much simpler.

Cissy's Easy Sugar Cookies

1 c. butter, softened
1 c. Crisco® Salad Oil
1 c. confectioners' sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
½ tsp. salt
4½ c. Swansdown® cake flour
1 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. soda
1 c. sugar (to roll cookies in)

Beat butter, oil, and confectioners' sugar together in a mixing bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, and mix until fluffy. Add vanilla; mix. Add dry ingredients except sugar and mix well. Refrigerate mixture for at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°.

Take out just enough dough to fill cookie sheets, leaving the rest to chill. Shape into teaspoon-sized balls and roll in the sugar. Use the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar to flatten the balls when they are placed on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 10–12 minutes, or until light golden brown.

Makes 8 dozen cookies.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN OLD SALEM

Designed by Jaenn (Cissy) Bailey Smith of Gentle Pursuit Designs

	Anchor®	DMC®	
■	401	413	gray, dk.
○	275	746	citrus, ul. lt.
S	372	738	desert, lt. (Scotch stitch)
M	341	918	terra cotta, dk. (mosiac stitch)
B	901	435	brass, med. (basketweave stitch)
bs	235	414	gray, med.
Fk	269	937	avocado, dark
Fk	281	581	olive green, med.

	Gloriana Threads Silk Floss	
C	125	branch coral (Cashmere stitch)
T	125	branch coral (tent stitch)

Fabric: Three 6" x 6" pieces 32-count pearl gray Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 47H x 36W
Design size: 1½" x 1⅛"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Work basketweave stitch over two threads, using one strand 901/435.

Work tent stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch door panels over one thread, using one strand 235/414.

Work Scotch stitch over four threads,

using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Outlines indicate stitch placement only and are not to be backstitched.)

Work cashmere stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Outlines indicate stitch placement only and are not to be backstitched.)

Work mosiac stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Outlines indicate stitch placement only and are not to be backstitched.)

Work straight stitch over two threads for steps, using one strand 275/746. Work straight stitch for transom, using one strand 275/746.

Work French knot where ● appears for garland above door, using one strand each 269/937 and 281/581 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Work design on one or two pieces of linen. Personalize remaining pieces of linen, using a favorite alphabet.

Finishing instructions: Using Template #1, cut three pieces of iron-on Pellon® and three pieces of Bristol board. Center the Pellon® horizontally on the wrong side of one of the stitched pieces; press in place. Trim seam allowance to 5/8" on all sides. Work basting stitches approximately 1/8" and 1/4" from Pellon®. Place Bristol board on top of Pellon® and gather threads. Glue linen in place on back of Bristol board.

Using Template #2, cut three pieces of buckram and three pieces iron-on Pellon®. Place Pellon® on wrong side of lining fabric (model uses yellow silk dupioni); press in place. Trim seam allowance to 5/8" on all sides. Work basting stitches around edge of lining 1/4" from Pellon®. Place buckram oval on top of pellon-backed lining piece. Gather threads and press in place.

Place lining and stitched piece with lining piece 1/4" inside stitched piece on all sides. Pin 8" length of 1/8"-wide coordinating green ribbon between lining and stitched piece of designs, with excess at top. Using sewing thread to match lining, blind stitch lining to linen.

Align bottom edge of design with top edge of personalized oval, right sides together. Using sewing thread that matches linen, blind stitch this edge together. Repeat for bottom edge of remaining design and bottom edge of personalized oval. Ovals will curve when stitched together.

Loosely knot ribbon lengths together to form a hanger. Attach small bows of coordinating 3/8" ribbon at bottom of each tie.

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Greensboro, NC 27403
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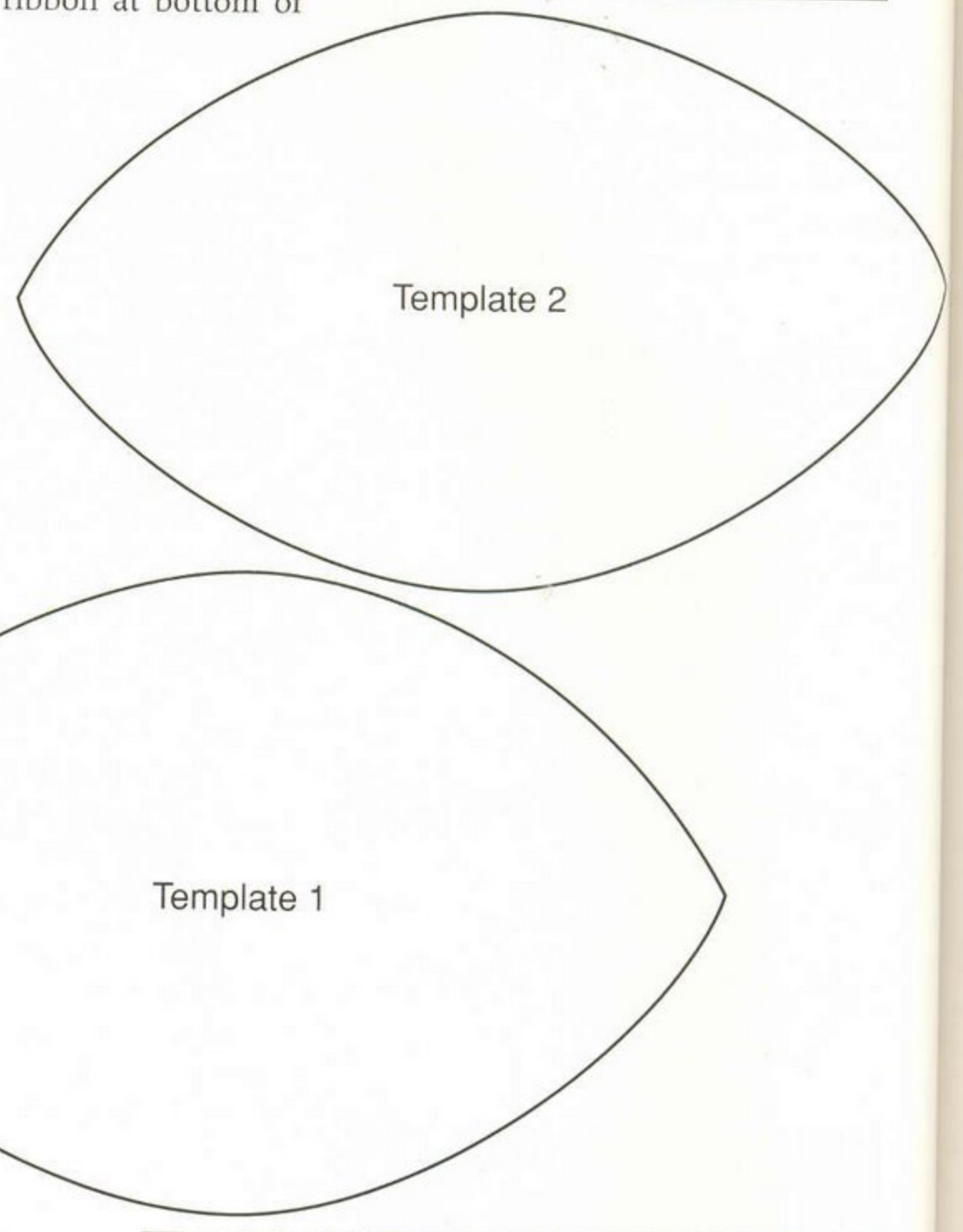
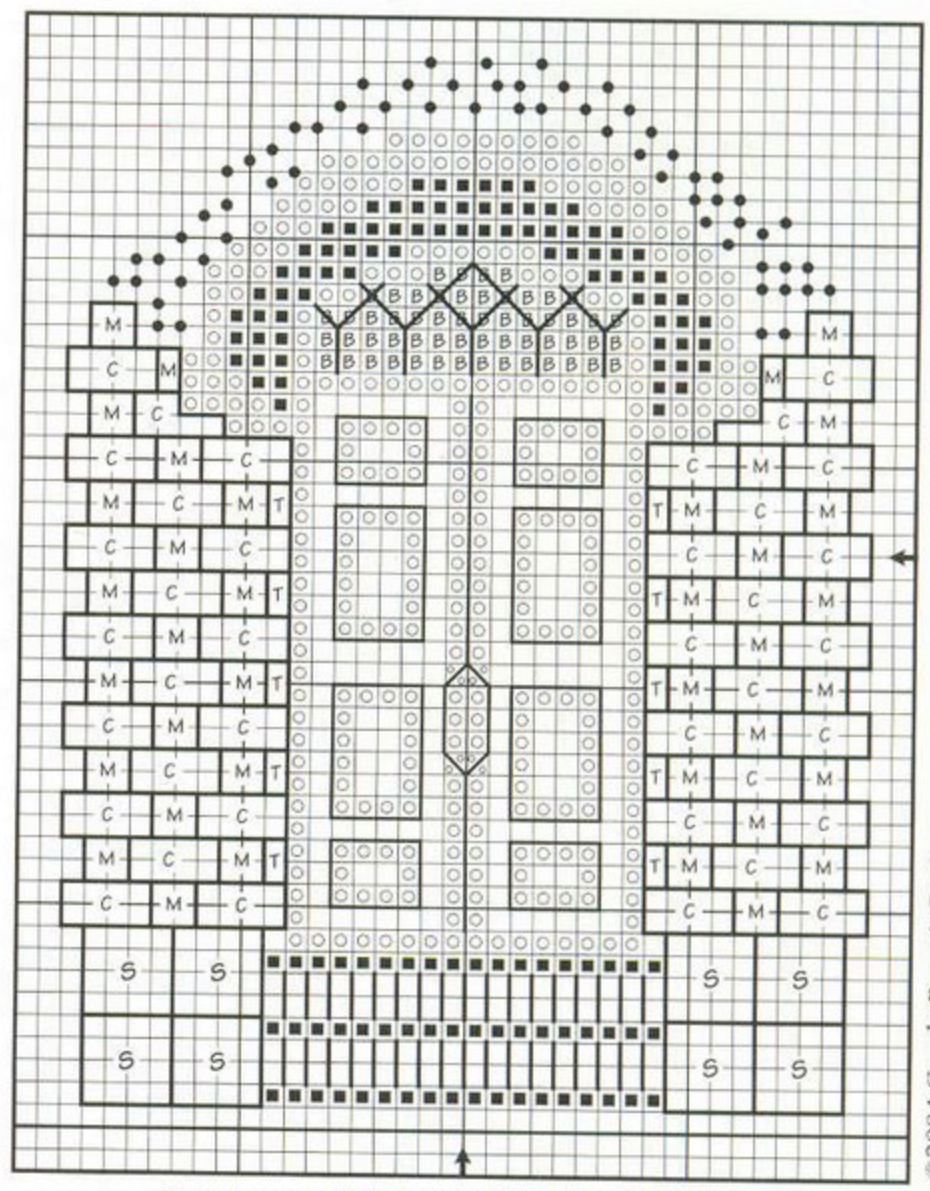


(Photo is on page 28. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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CHRISTMAS EVE IN OLD SALEM

Glory Bee

Nancy Boyarsky

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday filled with many happy memories, here is a favorite recipe I would like to share with you in the spirit of the season.

Apple Cake

4 c. apples, peeled and sliced
2 c. sugar
2 c. flour
1½ tsp. baking powder
2 tsps. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. salt
2 eggs
¾ c. oil
2 tsps. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a large bowl, stir together apples and sugar. Add remaining dry ingredients and stir well. In a separate bowl, beat together eggs, oil, and vanilla. Stir egg mixture into apple mixture, blending thoroughly until moistened.

Pour into a greased 9" x 13" baking dish and bake for 50–60 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream and warm caramel sauce (recipe follows).

Caramel Sauce:
½ c. butter
1 c. brown sugar, packed
1 c. whipping cream

Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to boil and boil for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Let cool to room temperature before serving.

SNOW

Designed by Nancy Boyarsky of Glory Bee

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads	
$ 0120	pine
X 0240	midnight
♥ 0390	buckeye scarlet
▲ 0440	maple syrup
■ 1040	black crow
○ 1140	oatmeal
ss 0550	burnt orange

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count antique blue linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 46H x 46W
Design size: 3⅓" x 3⅓"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work straight stitch (ss) for snowman's nose, using two strands 0550.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Ornament edging and hanger were made using ¼"-wide coordinating ribbon. Ornament edging was decorated with white-head straight pins.

Finished by It's Fine-ally Finished

Glory Bee
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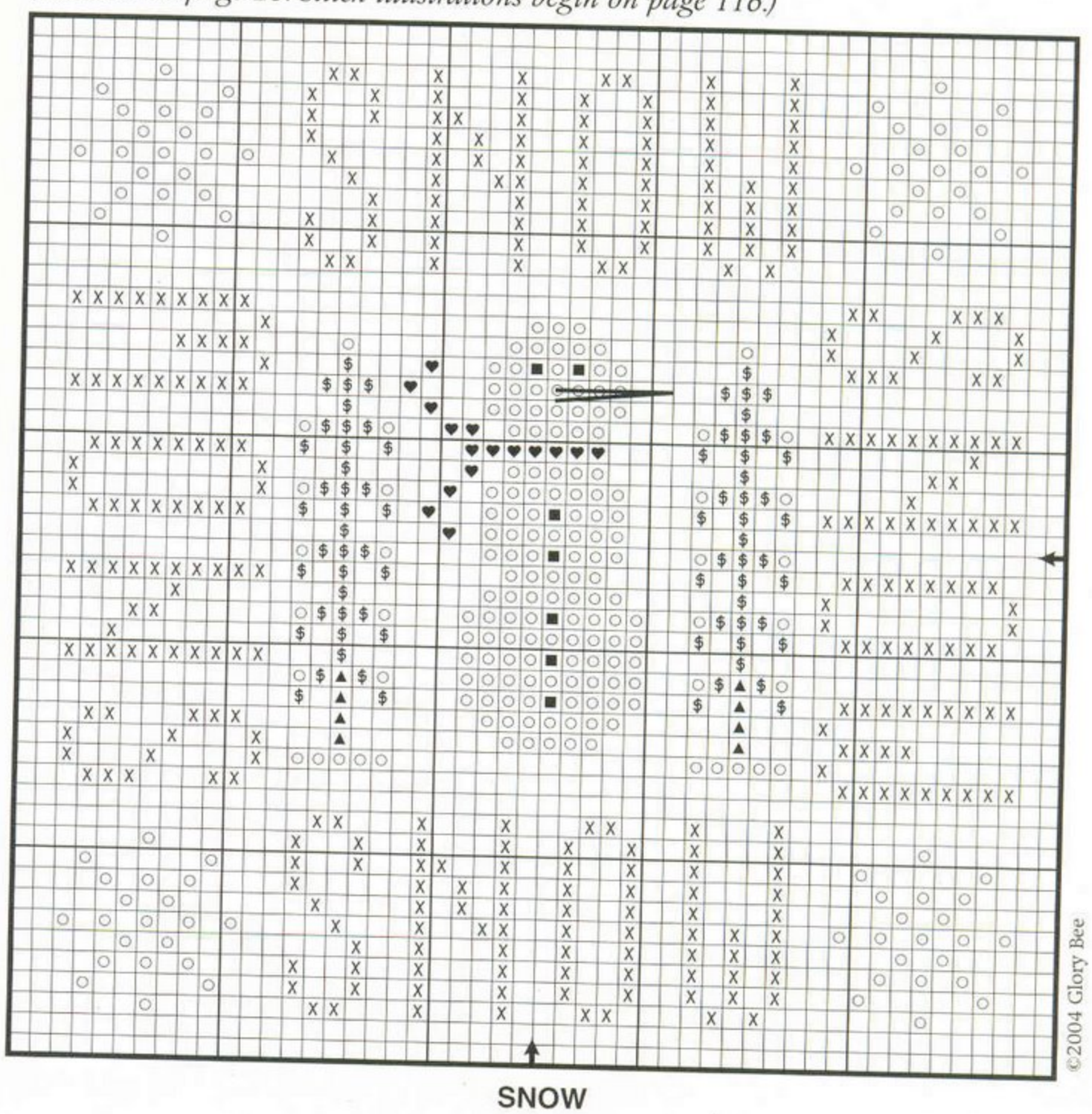
website: www.glorybeestitch.com

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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SNOW

Handwork

Mary Riggs

My ornament this year reflects the thoughts and prayers of all those concerned about the unrest in the world. When I am not designing or stitching, I am also a Montessori preschool teacher. My class has twelve two- and three-year-olds, and I spend my time trying to help them learn to be caring and thoughtful with each other, to see the beauty around them, and to take joy in their work. My Christmas wish is that the world they are to grow up into will become a more peaceful place for them.

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched piece to within 1/2" of stitching. Turn under 3/8" seam allowance and press. Appliqué stitched piece to center of 5 1/2" piece of Weeks Dye Works™ Kohl wool. Cut and appliqué decorative pieces of Weeks Dye Works™ Pecan, Oak, and Lancaster Red wool, using a blanket stitch and black floss. Referring to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119, use a second piece of Kohl wool for backing, stitching a length of black ribbon between the front and back for a hanger.

Handwork
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Vienna, VA 22182
e-mail: handworkmr@aol.com
website: www.handworksamplers.net

(Photo is on page 25.)

Heart In Hand Needleart

Cecilia Turner

If the holidays mean one thing to most families, it's family gatherings! Our family is no exception. And our favorite part of the "meal" is probably the appetizers! One of our favorites is easy to make and smells great while it simmers. Be sure to make a double batch!

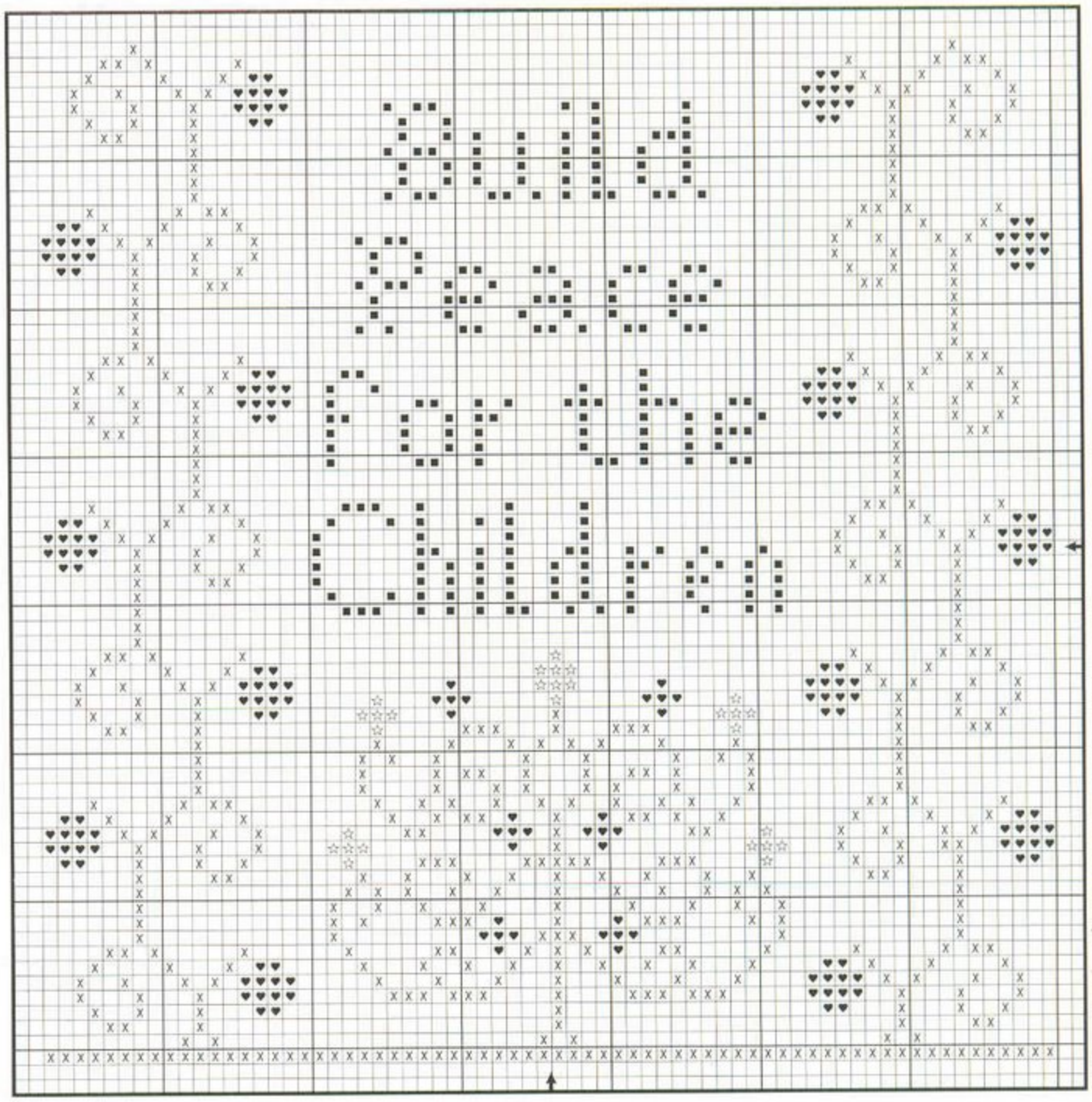
PEACE FOR THE CHILDREN

Designed by Mary Riggs of Handwork

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- ♥ 0390 buckeye scarlet
- X 7028 grape leaf
- ■ 0560 nutmeg
- ☆ 0420 gold leaf

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 40-count exemplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs
Stitch count: 69H x 68W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 3 1/2"



©2004 Handwork

PEACE FOR THE CHILDREN

Stewed Franks

¾ c. bourbon
1½ c. catsup
½ c. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. minced onion
1 lb. hot-dog franks, cut diagonally in 1"-long pieces

Mix together first four ingredients in a pan. Add franks. Simmer on stovetop for one hour. Serve with toothpicks. Enjoy!

TIDINGS OF JOY

Designed by Cecilia Turner of Heart In Hand Needleart

The Gentle Art
Simply Shaker Sampler Threads
X 7000 harvest basket
. 7027 parchment

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss
◑ 1333 Lancaster Red
■ 2158 juniper
▲ 1269 chestnut

Heart in Hand Needleart
● double star charm

Fabric: 5" x 4" piece 32-count summer khaki Zweigart® Belfast® linen from Norden Crafts Ltd.
Stitch count: 38H x 35W
Design size: 2⅜" x 2¼"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119, using two print fabrics: one for backing and inner "frame" around stitched piece; the other for hanger and outer "frame" around stitched piece. Stitch in the ditch between "frame" and stitched piece. Turn corners of finished ornament to edge of stitched piece and tack in place. Hanger was made using a tube of complementary bias-cut fabric.

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website: www.heartinhand.com

HeartStrings/ The Artists Collection

Pat Thode

This is a slightly over-indulgent cookie recipe I invented last Christmas. There is no such thing as too much in Christmas cookies.

HeartStrings/The Artists Collection
2128 Grand Boulevard
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: heartstrings@cfu.net

Toffee Rounds

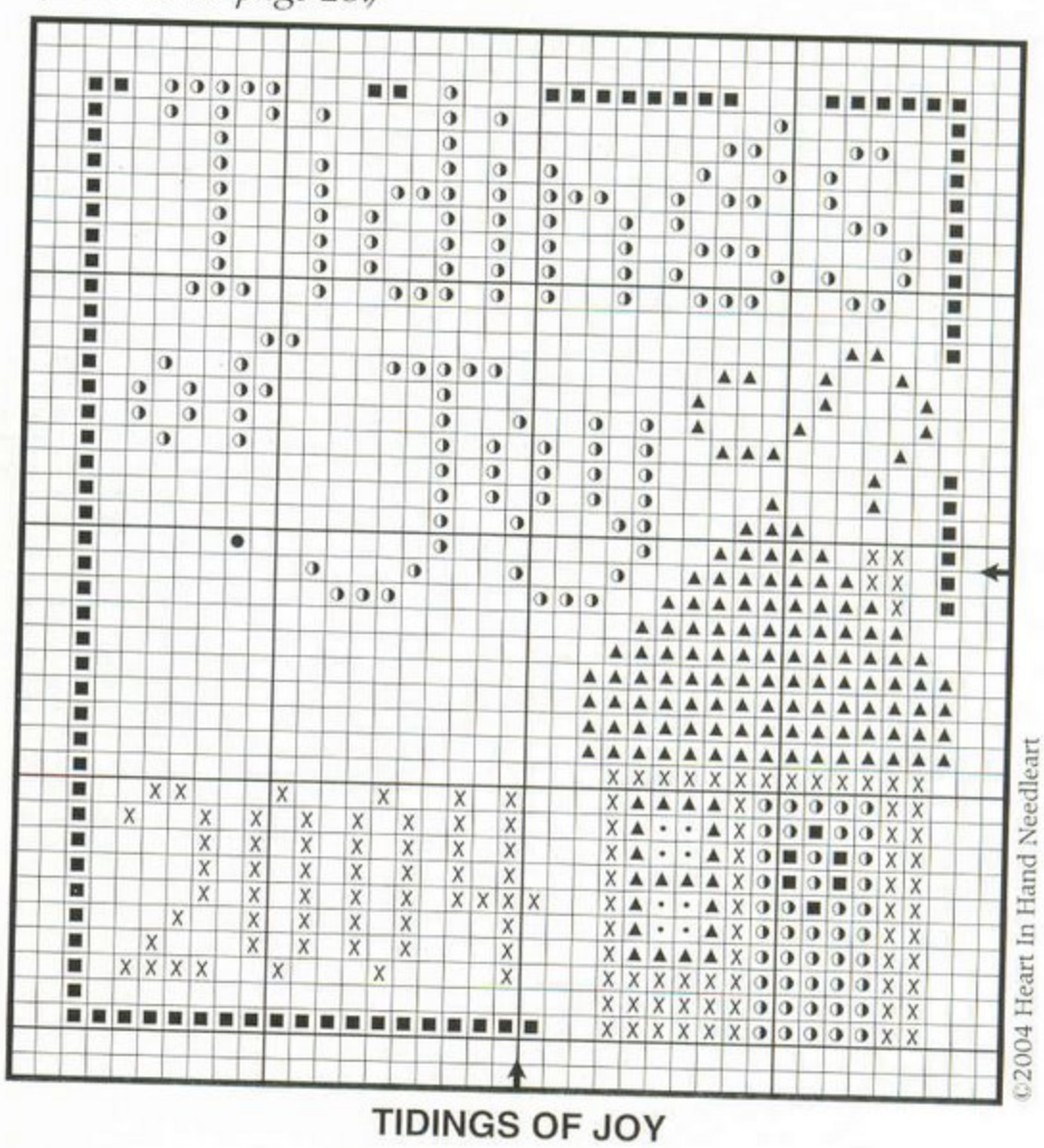
2 c. flour
1 c. butter, softened
½ c. confectioners' sugar, sifted
1 tsp. vanilla
3 (1.4-oz.) chocolate-covered toffee candy bars, finely crushed
½ c. finely chopped pecans
½ c. chocolate chips
1 Tbsp. shortening

Preheat oven to 350°.

In mixing bowl, mix flour, butter, confectioners' sugar, and vanilla until it forms a ball. (This is a shortbread dough, and you may have to use your hands to mix it, as the heat from your hands helps form the dough.) Add the crushed candy bars and pecans, making sure that all ingredients are thoroughly mixed together. Shape into small balls using a rounded teaspoon of dough. Place on ungreased cookie sheets and flatten slightly with the flat bottom of a glass dipped in granulated sugar.

Bake for 10–12 minutes, or until lightly golden brown around the edges. Let cookies cool completely. Melt chocolate chips and shortening. Dip one edge of the cookies in chocolate and put on waxed paper. Let chocolate set completely before storing.

(Photo is on page 28.)



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TIDINGS OF JOY

CELESTIAL SANTA

Designed by Pat Thode of HeartStrings/ The Artists Collection

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♡	224	893	pink, lt.
■	310	403	black
.	blanc	2	white
B	433	358	brown, med.
○	738	361	tan, vy. lt.
a	407	919	flesh, dk.
~	3774	778	flesh, vy. lt.
bs	414	235	steel gray, dk.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

♥	0390	Buckeye scarlet
✳	0240	midnight

Kreinik® Gemstone Threads Very Fine Braid #4

X	3232	Brazilianite

Jingle Bell

●		6mm gold (five)

Mill Hill Glass Treasures

★	12174	small opal star

Fabric: 7" x 8" piece 28-count babbling brook hand-dyed Jobelan® from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 55H x 70W
Design size: 4" x 5"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work rounded oblong leviathan stitch, using two strands blanc/2.

Attach 6mm bells, using two strands 0390.

Attach star, using two strands blanc/2.

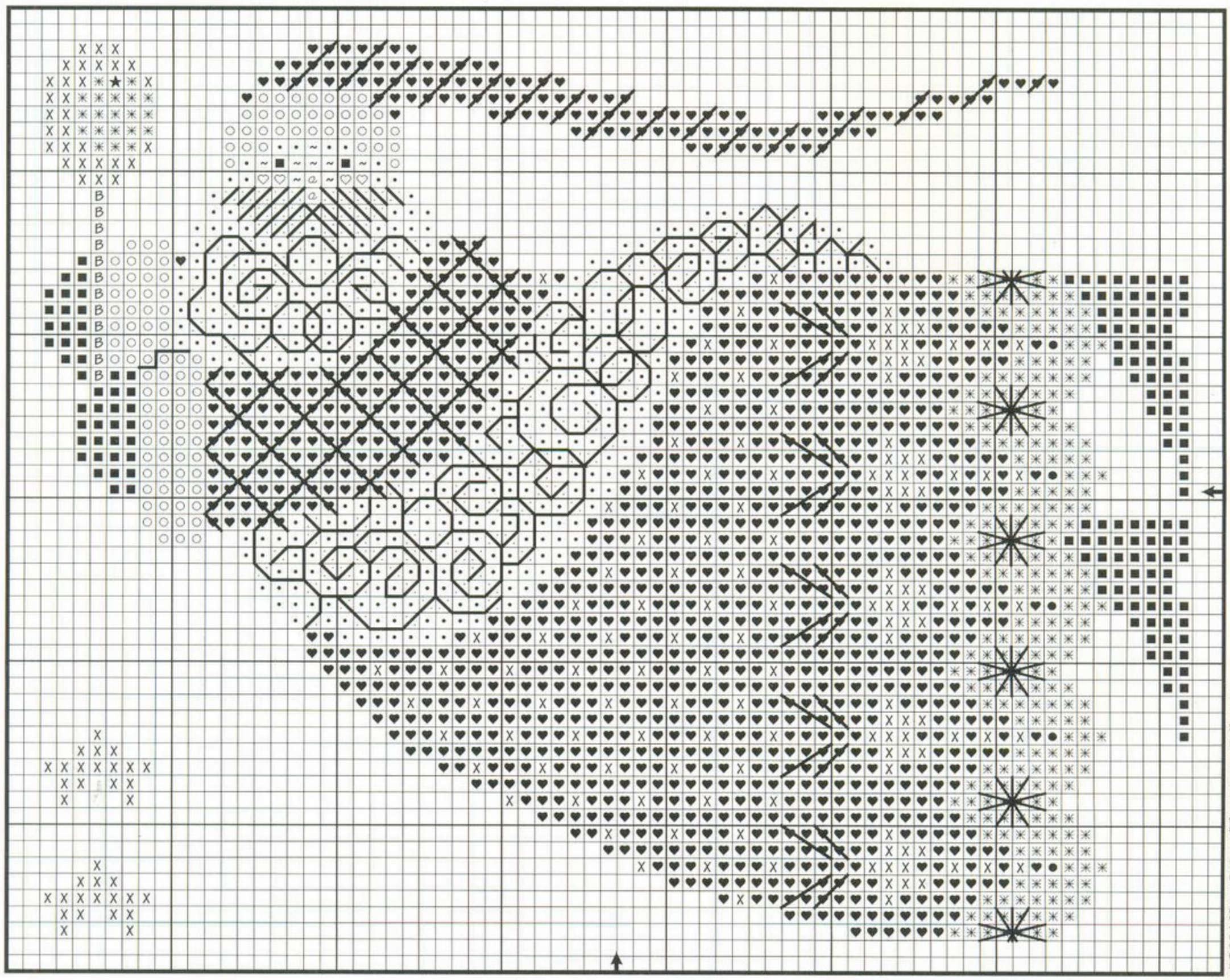
Referring to photo on page 22, tie a 12" length of very fine braid in a bow on scepter.

Backstitch instructions:

414	235	beard, line between cuffs
blanc	2	mustache (four strands)
3232		remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Using fusible web and following manufacturer's instructions, fuse two stars to a small piece of firmly woven cotton fabric. Cut out stars one fabric thread from stitched area. With a sharp needle, thread one end of bow tail on scepter through top of one star and tie in place. Repeat for remaining star and bow tail. Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim as purchased.

(Photo is on page 22.)



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CELESTIAL SANTA

Homespun Elegance Ltd.

Sandra J. Sullivan

Sometime during this past year, I was served this Peanut Apple Dip, and I predict that this will be added to our Christmas favorites after this year. You will love this. Not only is it delicious, but it is so easy.

Keep this in the refrigerator until about 30 minutes before serving.

Store any leftovers in the refrigerator.

Peanut Apple Dip

1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
⅔ c. chopped peanuts
⅔ c. brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
Several Granny Smith Apples, or any tart apples
Lemon juice mixed with water
Several whole peanuts (for garnish)

Mix first four ingredients together in a bowl. Slice apples and put in lemon water to prevent browning. Dry apple slices before placing on serving platter. Sprinkle a few extra chopped and whole peanuts on top. (I do this so people with a nut allergy are aware of the ingredients.)

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website: www.homespunelegance.com

JOYFUL SANTA

Designed by Sandra J. Sullivan of Homespun Elegance Ltd.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	3031	905	mocha, vy. dk.
X	610	889	drab brown, vy. dk.
~	612	832	drab brown, med.
@	3778	1013	terra-cotta, med. lt.
○	758	575	terra-cotta, lt.
+	3046	887	yellow-beige, med.
bs	611	898	drab brown, dk.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

♥	3860	crimson
▲	2158	juniper
B	2104	deep sea

Rainbow Gallery Wisper

.	W63	pale beige heather
/	W90	tan

Homespun Elegance Olde Brass Button

★		star

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count amber linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 35H x 35W
Design size: 2½" x 2½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of Wisper.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work colonial knots for pompom on hat, using two strands W90. (**NOTE:** Circle indicates area for colonial-knot placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

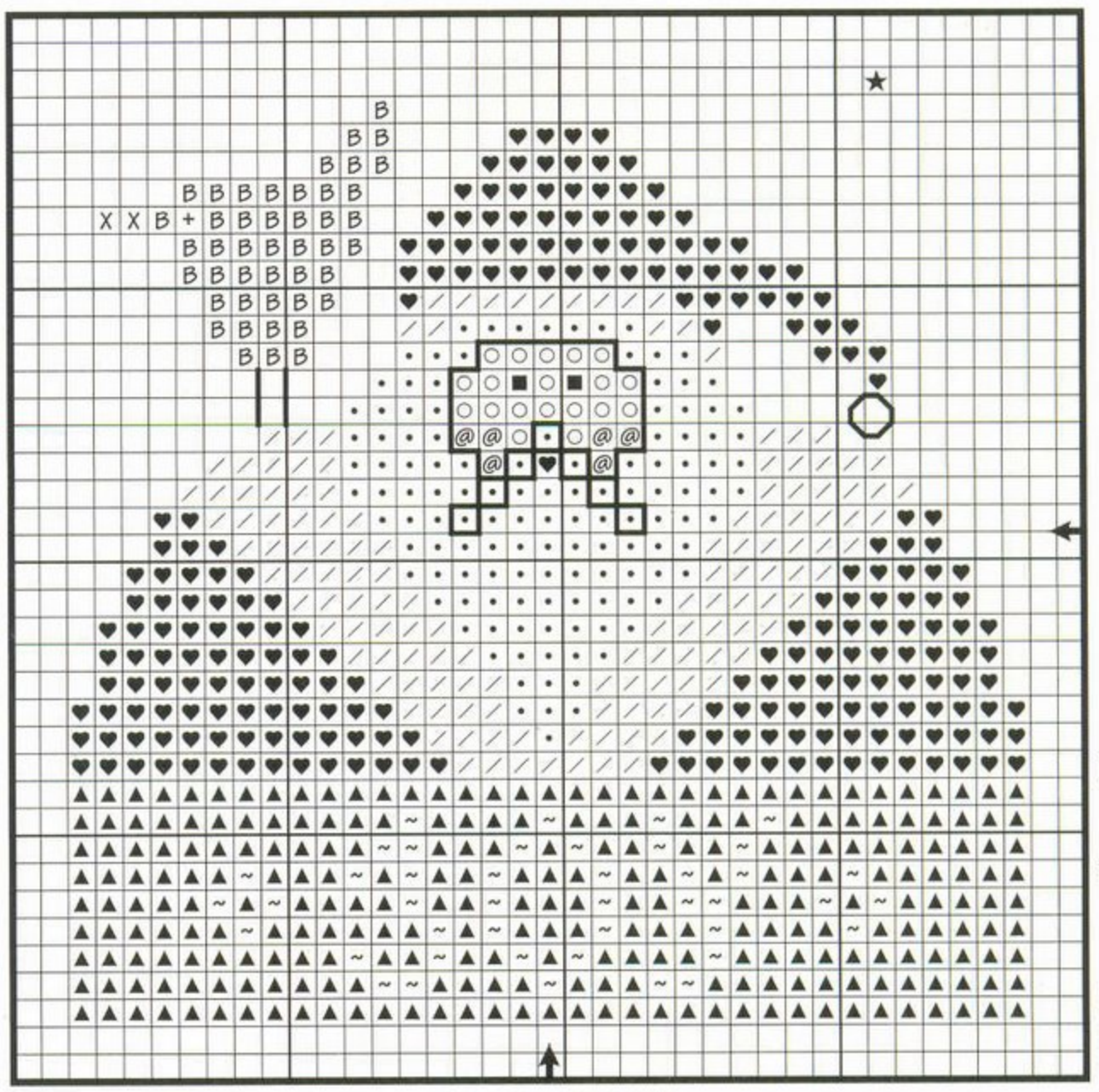
Attach button, using two strands 610/889.

Backstitch instructions:

3031	905	bird's legs (two strands)
611	898	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim and hanger were made by braiding 32" lengths of 2158, 3860, and 610/889.

(Photo is on page 22. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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JOYFUL SANTA

Imaginating, Inc.

Diane Arthurs

This recipe has been shared and shared, since all who try it want to make it. Never tell them the ingredients before they try it, as some will frown when you tell them it has green peppers and pineapple together.

Judy's Cheese Ball

2 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
1 (8½-oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained thoroughly
2 c. chopped pecans or walnuts, divided
¼ c. finely chopped green peppers
2 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
1 Tbsp. seasoned salt

Mix all ingredients together thoroughly, except 1 cup nuts. Form into a ball as much as possible in the bowl and chill until firm. Roll in remaining nuts.

SILENT NIGHT

Designed by Diane Arthurs of Imaginating, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
.	blanc	2	white
♥	902	897	garnet, vy. dk.
✳	304	19	red, med.
♡	3733	75	dusty rose
■	433	358	brown, med.
ℓ	729	890	old gold, med.
○	676	891	old gold, lt.
~	950	4146	flesh
▲	3051	845	green-gray, dk.
bs	310	403	black

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

•	00479	white

Just Another Button Company™

nh1046	holiday home
nh1044M	Nancy's heart, med. green (two)
3402X	tarnished gold star

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 14-count black Aida from Charles Craft, Inc.
Stitch count: 70H x 60W
Design size: 5" x 4 1/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss.

Backstitch (bs) using one strand 310/403.

Attach beads, using one strand blanc/2 and a cross stitch.

Attach buttons, using matching floss. (**NOTE:** Refer to photo on page 28 for placement of buttons.)

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim was purchased.

(Photo is on page 28.)

Imaginating, Inc.
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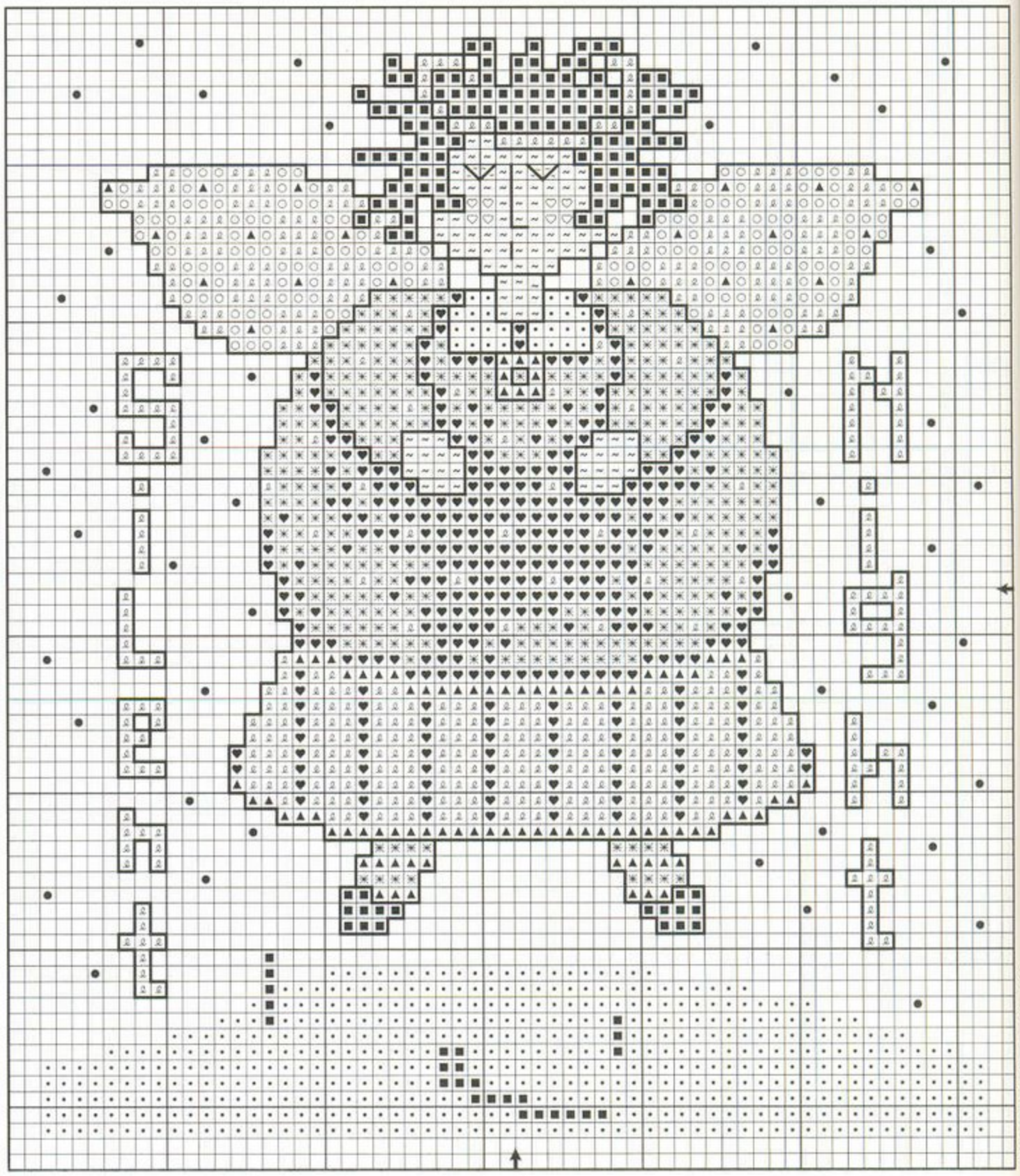

SILENT NIGHT

Indigo Rose

Catherine Strickler

Christmas 1998 was our son Matthew's first Christmas away from home. He had joined the Marine Corps that July, and Christmas in Virginia just wasn't going to be the same without him.

It wasn't going to be the same in south Texas at my mother's home either. Although we rarely had Christmas together anymore, there was always a Christmas Day phone call with everyone talking to "Gram Cracker" (her title was changed from Grandma by the baby of the family), telling her how much they loved their presents and missed her. This year she would miss the boy's voice over the phone as much as we missed him at home.

My mother lives out in the middle of ranching country in Texas. The closest "big" town is Corpus Christi, and a well-planned sojourn is made every year for Christmas shopping. This is a very good time and a highly anticipated event for my mother and several friends. A whole day is designated for shopping, lunch, and a great "girl" time together.

On entering one of their favorite stores, my mother saw the "Toys for Tots" bin in front of the store and made a mental note to pick up a toy to donate. Having won a total victory over that store, the shopping battalion was ready to march forward toward uncovered territory. My mother stopped to deposit her toy donation and saw the handsome young Marine standing next to the bin and understood that somewhere out there this was Matthew.

She only had one thought: if she could just touch the sleeve of that uniform, it would be like touching Matt. She told the young man that her grandson was a new Marine and she had not seen him since his enlistment and how much she was going to miss him this Christmas. Then she asked if she could touch his heavy wool sleeve.

The young Marine explained that all Marines are brothers. Then he bent, gave her a big hug, kissed her cheek, and whispered, "Merry Christmas, Grandma."

This is my mother's favorite Christmas memory. Mine, too.

SILENT NIGHT

Designed by Catherine Strickler of Indigo Rose

	Anchor®	DMC®	
X	178	791	ocean blue, dk.
●	403	310	black
	47	321	carmine red

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

■	02014	black
○	02013	red red

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count white Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 37H x 37W
Design size: 2 2/3" x 2 2/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 403/310.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch over two threads.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Hanger was made using white 1/4"-wide velvet ribbon.

(Photo is on page 28.)

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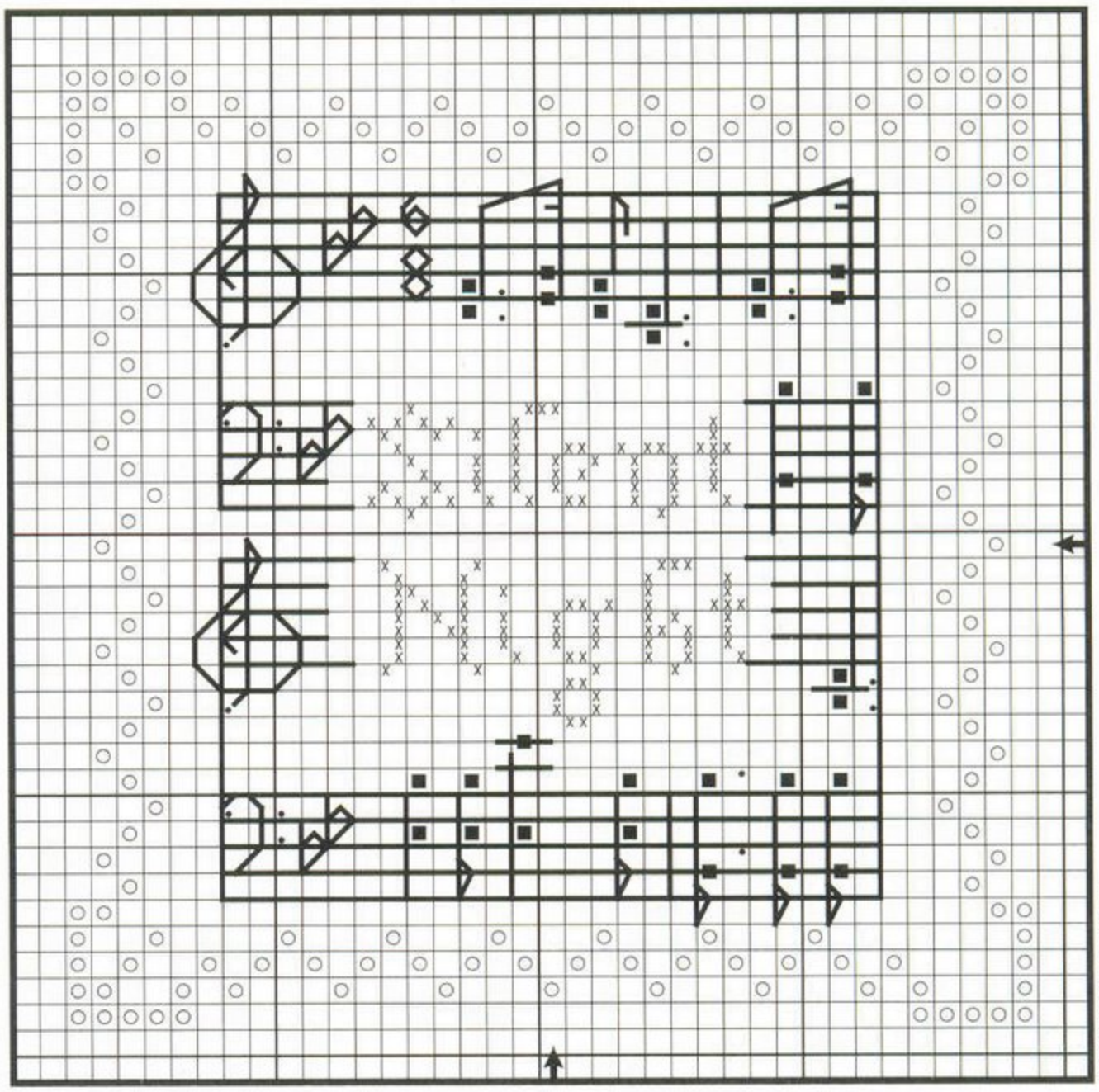

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SILENT NIGHT

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JBW Designs

Judy Whitman

Each year, on the day after Thanksgiving, our family heads out to the local tree farm to pick out a Christmas tree. The tree farm can't help but fill you with a "Christmas spirit," as it houses a wonderful old barn, full of freshly made wreaths, ribbons, decorations, popcorn, and hot cider.

Our oldest grandson likes to find a tree that is tall enough to reach the top of the staircase. From this vantage point, he and his sister can put the star on the top all by themselves! We have found that selecting a tree in the forest and estimating its true height can be challenging. A tree becomes infinitely taller and wider when squeezed through a front door! And getting this giant tree into the stand and upright is sometimes quite hilarious.

Our family picture was taken after the tree cutting. This past year, big fluffy snowflakes coated the trees and shrubs behind our house so that the background looks almost artificial! Pictured from left to right are: son-in-law Andy, daughter Kris, myself, husband Dick, daughter-in-law Brenda, and son Mark with grandchildren Wyatt and Ashton in front. Dog Libby is looking on.

Our photo next year will be even larger since two more grandsons have been born. Kris and Andy welcomed son Liam, while Mark and Brenda welcomed son Cody Alexander.

We are fortunate to have our children and grandchildren nearby to share in the blessings of our lives, and we wish you all a wonderful holiday.

PRANCER

Designed by Judy Whitman of JBW Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♥	816	43	garnet
■	890	218	pistachio, ul. dk.
X	368	214	pistachio, lt.
★	898	380	coffee brown, vy. dk.
bs	501	878	blue-green, dk.

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

○	40123	cream

Fabric: 5" x 5" piece 27-count white Northern Cross linen from Norden Crafts, Inc.
Stitch count: 50H x 50W
Design size: 1 7/8" x 1 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching thread and a cross stitch.

Backstitch border over one thread, using one strand 501/878.

Finishing instructions: Repeat backstitch border only on another piece of linen. Trim excess fabric to 1/4" of backstitch borders. Finger press seam allowance to back along backstitch borders. With right sides together, lace backstitched edges together, adding one 45270 bead every other lacing stitch.

Twisted-cording hanger was made using 501/878, with one Mill Hill 05147 Pebble Bead knotted at top and threaded through another one at base of hanger. Twisted cording instructions are on page 53.

Beaded tassel was made using three strands of alternating Mill Hill 40123, 45270, and 42043 Petite Glass Beads, threaded through another pebble bead at top of tassel.

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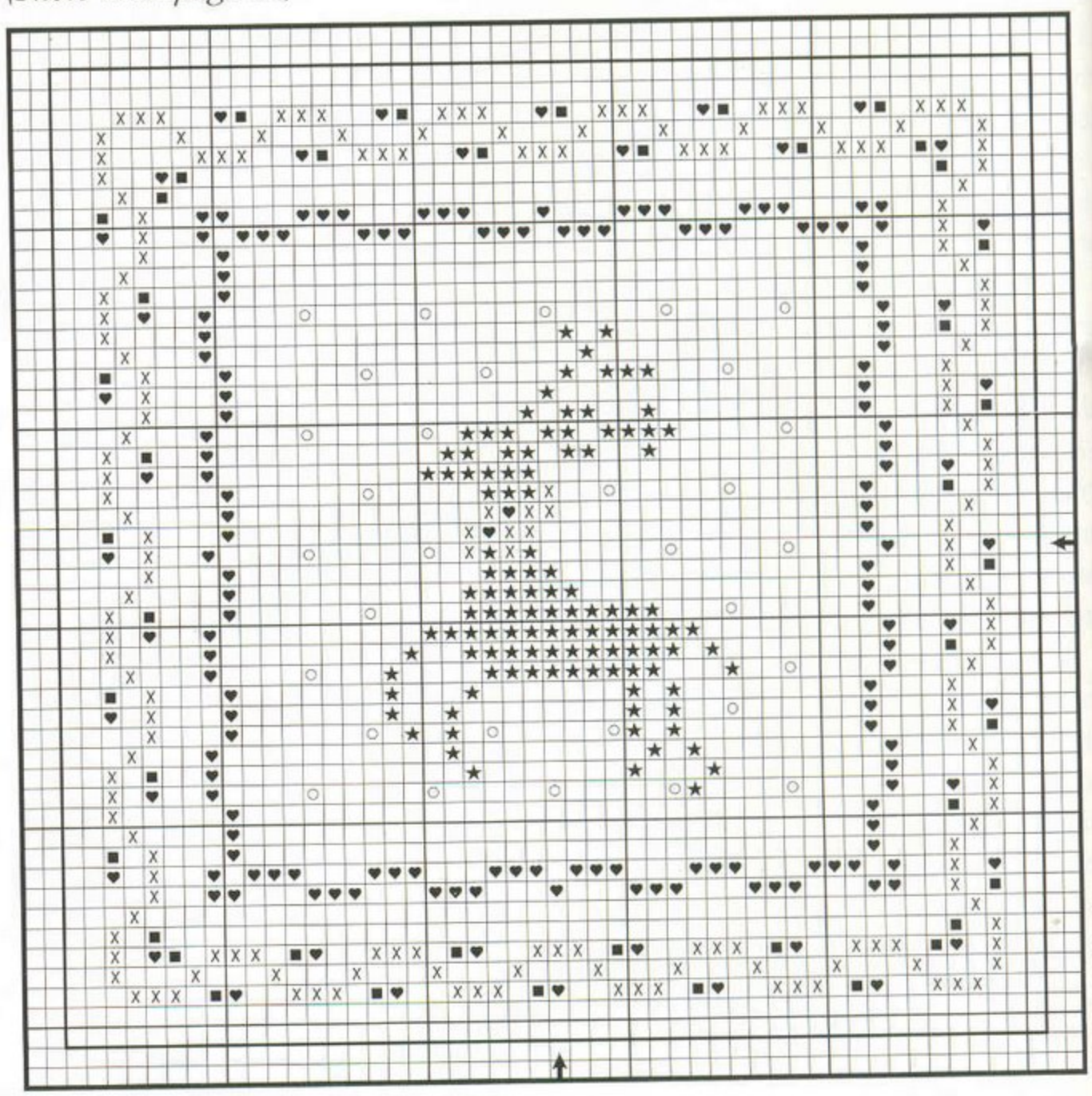
website: www.jbwdesigns.com

(Photo is on page 18.)



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PRANCER

Jeannette Douglas Designs

Jeannette Douglas

When my oldest daughter, Arielle, who is now eighteen, was two years old, we went as a family to Banff, Alberta, for Christmas. We had to have everything ready to take with us so we could unwrap presents Christmas morning at the hotel. And yes, we stayed at the famous Banff Springs Hotel.

Banff is an hour away from Calgary, and we set out on Christmas Eve in the afternoon. We arrived at the hotel amidst a flurry of activity, with many other families doing the same thing. Our bags were stacked on golden, arched bag carriers, with gaily wrapped presents on top. I must admit that I put extra effort into the gift-wrapping that year, as the presents were visible to all!

What a morning Christmas was! There was a beautiful buffet breakfast and then came the unwrapping of gifts. My daughter's delight in everyone else's unwrapping, more so than her own, was a treasure to my heart. In the afternoon, we went tobogganing. The hotel had an area below it that included the perfect hill for sledding. You just couldn't go too far or you would land in the creek!

A big dinner was served with much pomp and circumstance on Christmas evening. Servers, dressed up in old-style costumes, brought in a fatted pig and Christmas pudding. The guests sat at round tables of eight. The service was spectacular. We were overwhelmed at being treated like kings and queens.

All the decorations were tremendous! A miniature Banff Springs Hotel gingerbread house with lots of chocolate was a sight to behold.

The next morning we donned our bathing suits and went swimming in the hot springs pool. We didn't want this fantasy-like Christmas to end. If you ever get the chance to visit Banff, it's a trip you'll never forget. The mountains, the rivers and lakes, the hot springs, and the hotel: it is all magnificent!

Jeannette Douglas Designs
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Canada
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website: www.jeannettedouglas.com

PEACE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Designed by Jeannette Douglas of Jeannette Douglas Designs

	Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4	
+	032	pearl
	DMC® Anchor®	
	322 978	navy, vy. lt.
	blanc 2	white
	Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed	
	110	blue is blue
	Needle Necessities #8 Kreinik® Metallic Overdyed	
	2010	blue is blue
	Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads	
•	00479	white

Fabric: 9 1/2" x 5 1/2" piece 28-count ice blue Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 40H x 25W
Design size: 2 7/8" x 1 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of very fine braid.

Attach beads, using one strand blanc/2 and a cross stitch.

Special instructions:

Area 1–Work oblong cross stitch four threads high and ten threads wide, using two strands 110. Work overlaying satin stitch where gray lines appear, using one strand of very fine braid.

Area 2–Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 322/978.

Area 3–Work modified Roman stitch, using one strand 2010.

Area 4–Backstitch lettering over two threads, using one strand 322/978. Backstitch star rays over two threads, using one strand of very fine braid.

Area 5–Work knitting stitch over two threads, using two strands 110.

Area 6–Beginning with rice stitch, alternately work rice and Rhodes stitches over four threads, using one strand of very fine braid. (**NOTE:** The last stitch worked will only be a partial rice stitch.)

Area 7–Work darning star stitch over six threads, using one strand 322/978.

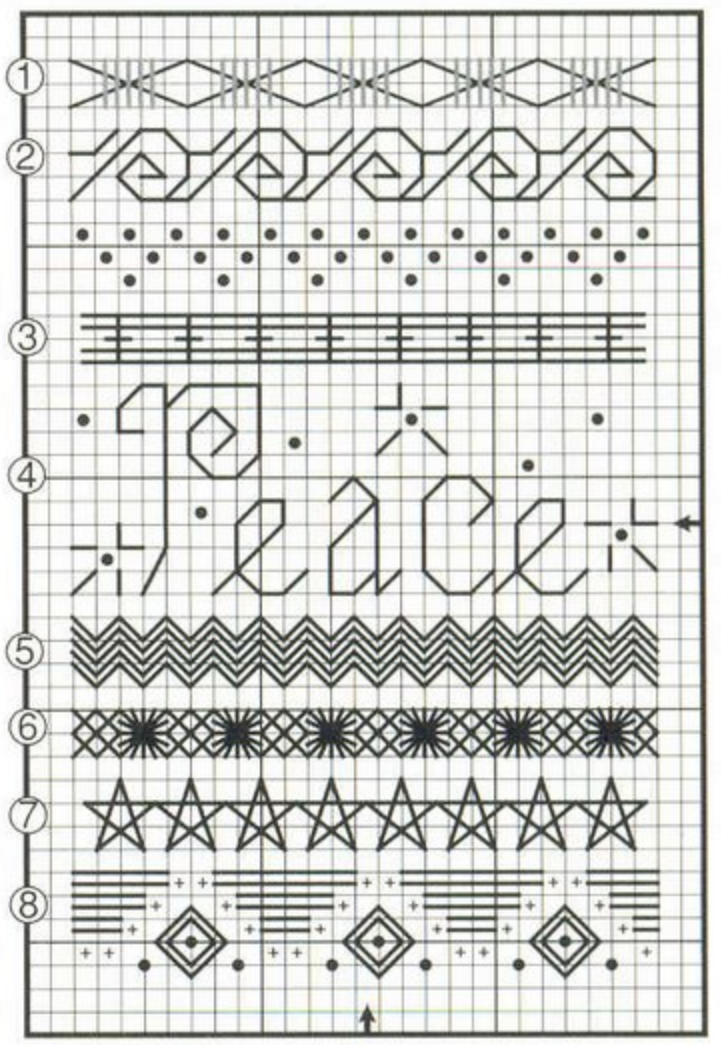
Area 8–Work horizontal satin stitch usine one strand 2010. Work straight stitch for diamonds, using one strand 110.

Finishing instructions: Measure 1 3/4" from top and bottom of stitched area. Remove two fabric threads. Measure 3/4" from withdrawn areas and trim fabric. Fold 3/4" area under twice to withdrawn area. Work hemstitch to secure hem, using one strand 110.

With wrong sides together and using a 1/2" seam allowance, stitch seam down back of piece. Trim seam allowance to 1/4". Turn right-side out.

Referring to photo on page 26, tie a length of 5/8"-wide blue organza ribbon around bottom of needleroll ornament in a bow. Stuff firmly with polyfill. Insert metallic silver rattail cording for hanger. Tie top of needleroll ornament with another length of ribbon as before.

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



PEACE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

©2004 Jeannette Douglas Designs

©2004 JBW Designs

Jemini Designs

Jeanette Rees

Apples, Cranberries, and Yams!

½ c. sugar
½ c. brown sugar
4 c. yams, peeled and thinly sliced
4 c. Granny Smith apples, peeled and cubed
4 c. fresh cranberries
1 stick butter, sliced into pats
Chopped walnuts for garnish

Preheat oven to 350°.

Combine sugars in a large bowl. Add apples and toss.

In a 9" x 13" oblong baking dish, layer half the yams, half the apples, and then half the cranberries. Place half the butter atop the cranberries. Layer remaining halves; top with remaining butter. Sprinkle chopped walnuts on top.

Bake for about 45 minutes. Great for Christmas dinner, or any other time.

HERALD THE HERON

Designed by Jeanette Rees of Jemini Designs

Anchor® DMC®

403	310	black

Rainbow Gallery Fuzzy Stuff

♥	FZ18	Christmas red

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

X	0250	cornflower blue

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

■	4117	Father's day
●	1088	white lightning

Just Another Button Company™

4447S		holly leaf (two)
4447T		holly leaf

Fabric: 8" x 6" piece 25-count light blue Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 66H x 43W
Design size: 5 3/8" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads around eye, using one strand 403/310.

Work long stitch, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work French knot where ● appears, using one strand of white portion of 1088 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Referring to photo on page 20 for placement, attach buttons on scarf at back of neck, using one strand of matching floss.

Long-stitch instructions:

4117		black lines of beak (two strands of darkest portion), gray lines of beak (two strands of lightest portion)
403	310	head feathers
1088		chest feathers
FZ18		fringe on scarf

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119, leaving a 1" opening at bottom right of ornament for inserting legs.

For each leg, cut a 1" x 11" length of matching blue Ultra Suede®. Fold in half lengthwise and sew approximately 3/8" from fold. Trim very close to seam and insert floral wire into tube. Twist each end of the floral wire into a small circle.

Bend legs in half and insert bent section into ornament. Blind stitch opening closed around legs.

For boots, fold a piece of red Ultra Suede® in half, then cut out using boot pattern given. Fold boots over ends of floral-wire legs, and glue in place. Cut a length of Rainbow Gallery FZ01 Fuzzy Stuff to go around the top of each boot; blind stitch in place. Bend legs into desired position.

Twisted-cording trim and thin twisted-cording hanger were made using 0250. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Bow was made using 3/4"-wide blue gauze ribbon.

Jemini Designs
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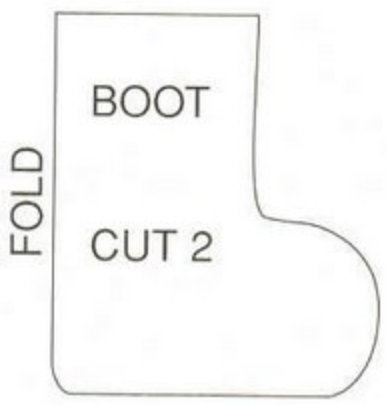
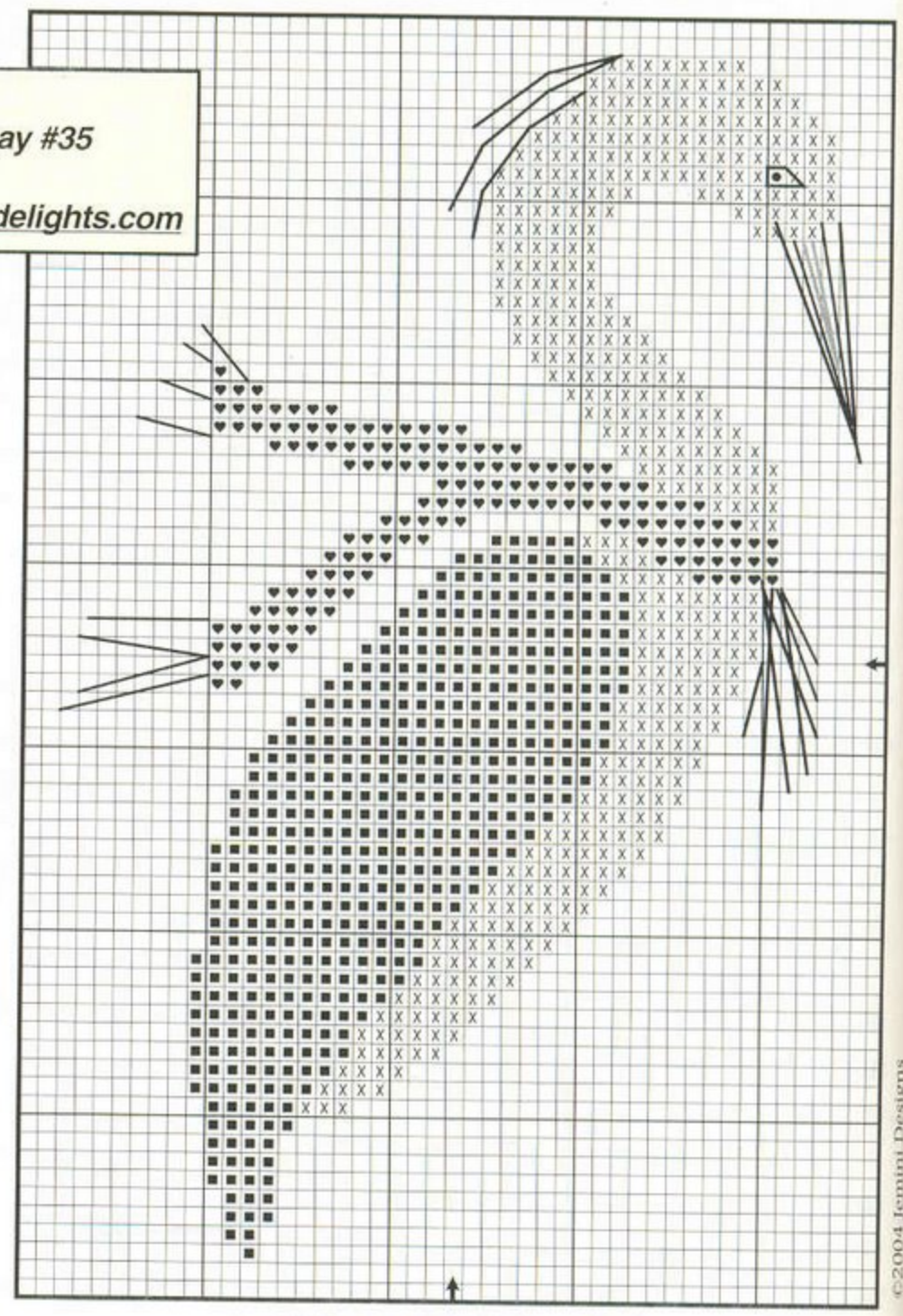
(Photo is on page 20. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)





HERALD THE HERON

Julia Lucas Designs

Julia Lucas

When I was four years old, my mother said, "It's almost Christmas. Do you know what that means?"

"Yes," I answered confidently. "It means I'll get a little red wagon under the tree."

Mum puzzled for a moment. "Why do you think that?"

"Because our teacher said so. She read us a story and that's what the little boy wanted."

Mum tried again. "But is that what you really want?"

"Of course!" I answered emphatically. "If you don't get a little red wagon, it just isn't Christmas!"

Mum let the subject go for a week or so, hoping that I would forget, but, according to her, I didn't. I became more and more convinced that the kindergarten story version, 'boy-gets-red-wagon,' was the only gift anyone wanted, and nothing else would do. She began to worry that all her own careful preparations would be a huge let-down. At the last minute, she found a cheap tin wagon, red with black wheels, and there it was under the tree. I was ecstatic. The day was saved, and we were all happy.

May all your dreams come true!

PEACE ON EARTH

Designed by Julia Lucas of Julia Lucas Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
▲	3345	268	hunter, dk.
◣	3051	845	green-gray, dk.
$	3051	845	green-gray, dk.
$	3052	844	green-gray, med.
a	3052	844	green-gray, med.
●	3750	1036	antique blue, vy. dk.
b	932	1033	antique blue, lt.

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

+	194	pale blue
★	002HL	gold hi lustre
bs	032	pearl

Kreinik® Blending Filament

001	silver

Fabric: 10" x 9" piece 32-count twilight blue silk & linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 60H x 42W

Design size: 3 3/4" x 2 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Cross stitch over two threads where ⁄ appears, using two strands 3750/1036, and then work an additional cross stitch over the already completed stitch, using one strand of blending filament.

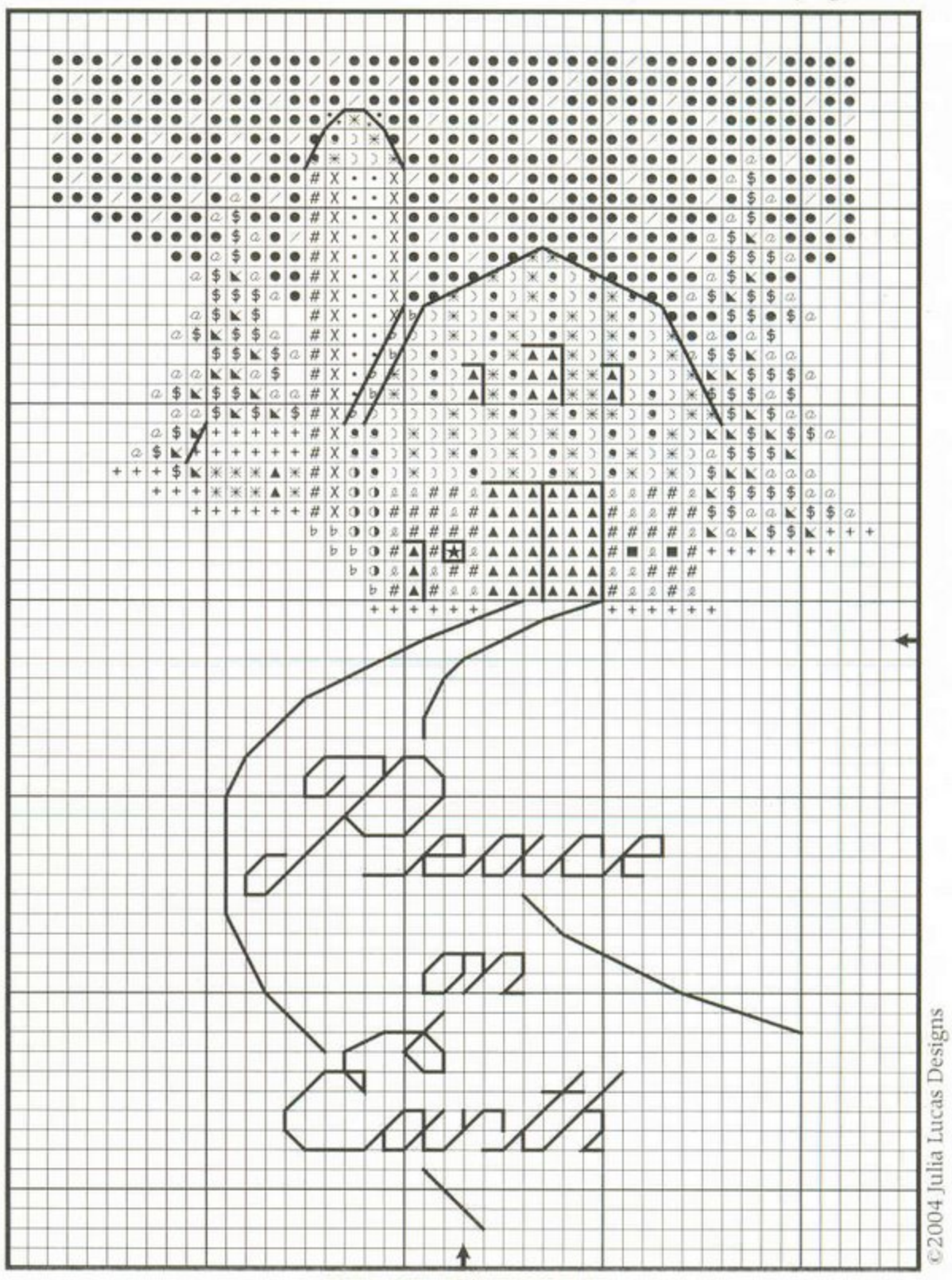
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or very fine braid.

Backstitch instructions:

932	1033	back edge of barn roof near silo
300	352	silo roof
194		remainder of barn roof
310	403	doors and windows
032		path
3750	1036	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Trim sides and bottom of linen to within 1 1/2" of stitching. Trim top of linen to within 1/2" of stitching.

(Photo is on page 29.)



PEACE ON EARTH

©2004 Julia Lucas Designs

©2004 Jemini Designs

Fold sides to back along edge of stitching: press from back. Tack overlapping edge in place on back.

Twisted-cording hanger was made using 3750/1036. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Fold top of linen to back along edge of stitching; press from back. Insert ends of twisted cording. Tack linen in place to create a casing.

Fold 1/2" at bottom of linen to back. Fold back bottom-right and bottom-left corners to form a point at bottom of band. Tack in place.

Tassel was made using 3750/1036. Turn to page 43 for tassel-making how-tos.

Julia Lucas Designs
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Canada

Kitty & Me Country Crafts

Pamela Kellogg

Last summer, my husband, Scott, and I decided to build a deck onto the back of our house. By August, we had the plans drawn up, the permit, and the supplies. Scott and my father spent most of the autumn season building the deck; and by Thanksgiving, it was complete.

Thankfully, our daily temperatures here in northern Illinois throughout December were quite comfortable. I would put some Christmas music on in the house– loud enough to hear though the storm door–and I sat on my new deck enjoying a cup of tea and watching the birds in my backyard!

The new deck also gave my husband some more options for decorating with Christmas lights. And did we have lights! I think we had the brightest backyard in the neighborhood; and, if not, it was definitely the most beautifully decorated deck around!

Happy holidays everyone!

CHRISTMAS CHICKADEE

Designed by Pamela Kellogg of Kitty & Me Country Crafts

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
✳	3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
◑	413	236	pewter gray, dk.
&	317	400	pewter gray
X	414	235	steel gray, dk.
△	318	235	steel gray, lt.
/	415	398	pearl gray
ıı	762	234	pearl gray, vy. lt.
.	blanc	2	white
▲	561	212	jade, vy. dk.
$	505	211	jade green
↙	562	210	jade, med.
◊	563	208	jade, lt.
)	564	206	jade, vy. lt.
○	945	881	flesh
ℓ	951	1010	flesh, vy. lt.
+	3770	1009	flesh, ul. lt.
♥	3803	69	mauve, med. dk.
M	3687	68	mauve
?	3688	75	mauve, med.
a	3689	49	mauve, lt.
●	3808	1068	turquoise, ul. vy. dk.
x	3809	1066	turquoise, vy. dk.
3	3810	1066	turquoise, dk.
☆	597	1064	turquoise
b	598	1062	turquoise, lt.
–	3811	1060	turquoise, vy. lt.

	Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4	
★	210	gold dust

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 28-count miracle mint Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 52H x 59W
Design size: 3 3/4" x 4 1/4"

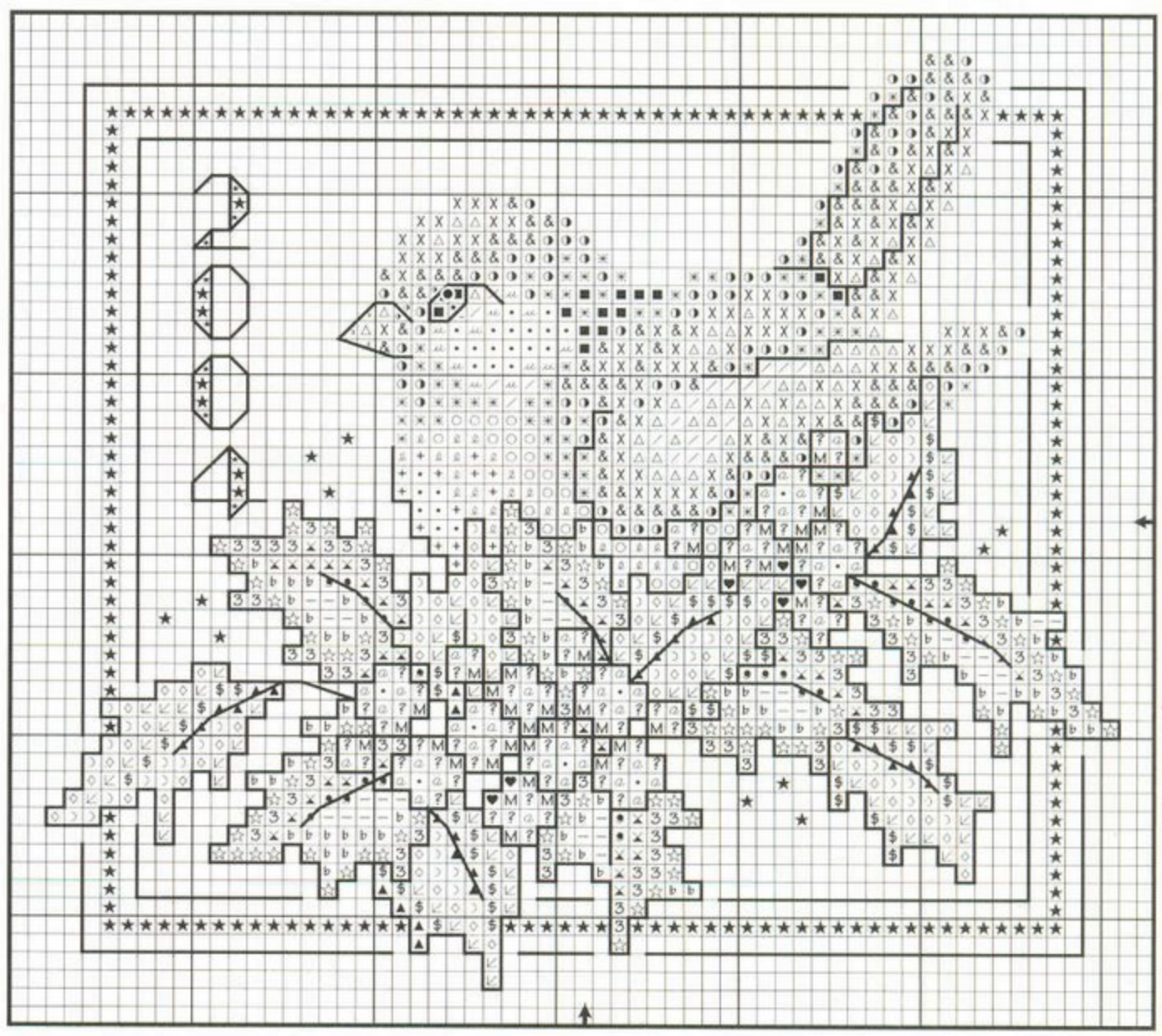
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or very fine braid.

Work French knot where ● appears for center of bird's eye, using one strand blanc/2 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Backstitch instructions:

945	881	bird's breast



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CHRISTMAS CHICKADEE

310	403	remainder of bird
210		remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Ornament was finished with purchased piping and ruffled lace. Hanger was made with three lengths of 1/4" coordinating ribbon.

(Photo is on page 21. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Stitched by Kim Dennett

Kitty & Me Country Crafts
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La-D-Da

Lori Markovic

Christmas in Wisconsin is truly breathtaking! The snow, lights, special programs; it is a wondrous time of year. It is also a very hectic time of year because we want to show our love for family by making everything special and magical. This takes time and energy. Amidst the hustle and bustle of the holidays, I tend to get overwhelmed, so we (I) made some rules to help the holidays be all they can be.

Rules for Christmas
(And the Reasons for Them)

1. Santa won't come to a messy house. (This rule has stopped the fussing about pitching in and even doing a little extra.)

2. The sun must be up to open presents. (Since we were up 'til all hours getting last-minute things ready, we're guaranteed at least a little sleep.)

3. There will be a huge orange at the bottom of your stocking. (It takes the place of a lot of candy, need I say more?)

Once I ignored rule #3, and I got a lot of disappointed faces. Funny how traditions get started!

Merry Christmas!

SNOW BIRD

Designed by Lori Markovic of La-D-Da

Crescent Colours
Hand Dyed Floss

■ Black Coffee

The Gentle Art
Sampler Threads

X 0460 Grecian gold

Fabric: 5" x 7" piece 36-count vintage light examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs
Stitch count: 35H x 66W
Design size: 2" x 3 2/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand Black Coffee.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119.

Legs were made using six strands 0460, tied in a knot, then threaded through one Mill Hill 03014 Antique Glass Bead, then one Crafts Inc. IL-092 brass bead, then another glass bead. Stitch floss into bird where • appears at bottom of bird, then come out at second • and thread through same pattern of beads again before tying off and trimming. Each leg should be about 1/2" long.

Hanger loop was made using six strands 0460, stitched through bird where • appears at top of bird. Floss was then knotted around a sprig of dried greenery, then all 12 strands are threaded through same pattern of beads as before, tied off, and trimmed about 2" from bird.

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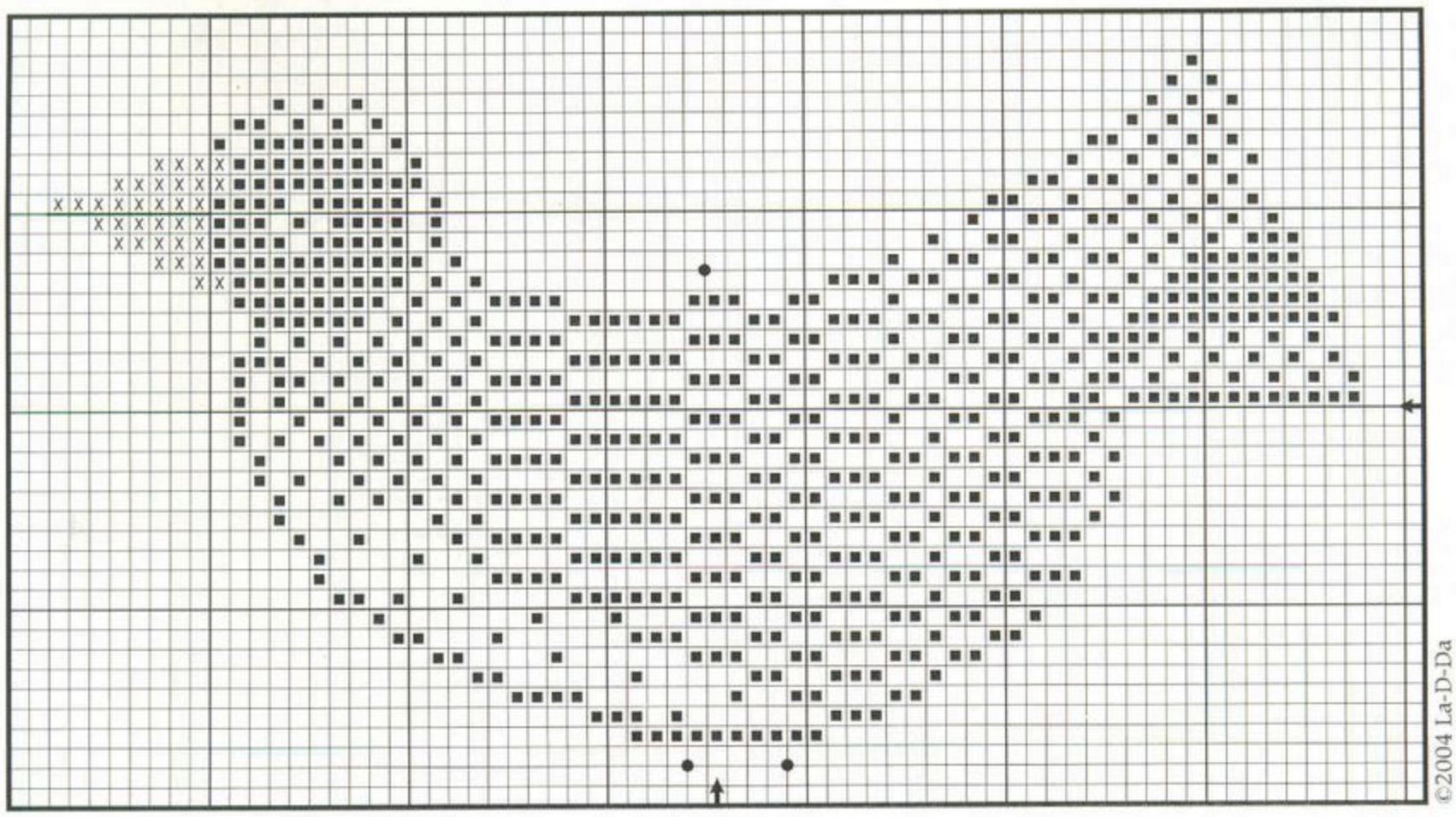
(Photo is on page 20.)



SNOWBIRD

©2004 La-D-Da
©2004 Kitty & Me Country Crafts

Little By Little Design Co.

Cynthia Daly Bradford

The picture is of my two new spotted miniature donkeys and me. This picture was taken the last of April 2004. I lost my first little buddy at Christmas 2003. He became God's little Christmas donkey.

Your children or grandchildren will love making these cookies.

Bird Nest Cookies

1 (12-oz.) bag butterscotch bits
1 (5-oz.) can chow mein noodles
1 c. chopped salted peanuts
1 small bag jelly beans

Melt the butterscotch bits in a pan or double boiler over low heat. Add noodles and peanuts to the melted bits and stir. Drop large spoonfuls of the mixture onto two cookie sheets lined with waxed paper. Shape each nest with your fingers. Put four or five jelly bean "eggs" into each nest. Chill in the refrigerator.

Makes about 15 nests.

Little By Little Design Co.
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Huntersville, NC 28078
e-mail: cdaly4692@aol.com

DON'T PEEK

Designed by Cynthia Daly Bradford of Little By Little Design Co.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
B	518	1039	Wedgewood, lt.
○	729	890	old gold, med.
■	869	375	hazelnut, vy. dk.
♥	918	341	copper, dk.
X	987	244	forest, dk.
.	3348	264	yellow-green, lt.

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 40-count chinchilla linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 79H x 61W
Design size: 4" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

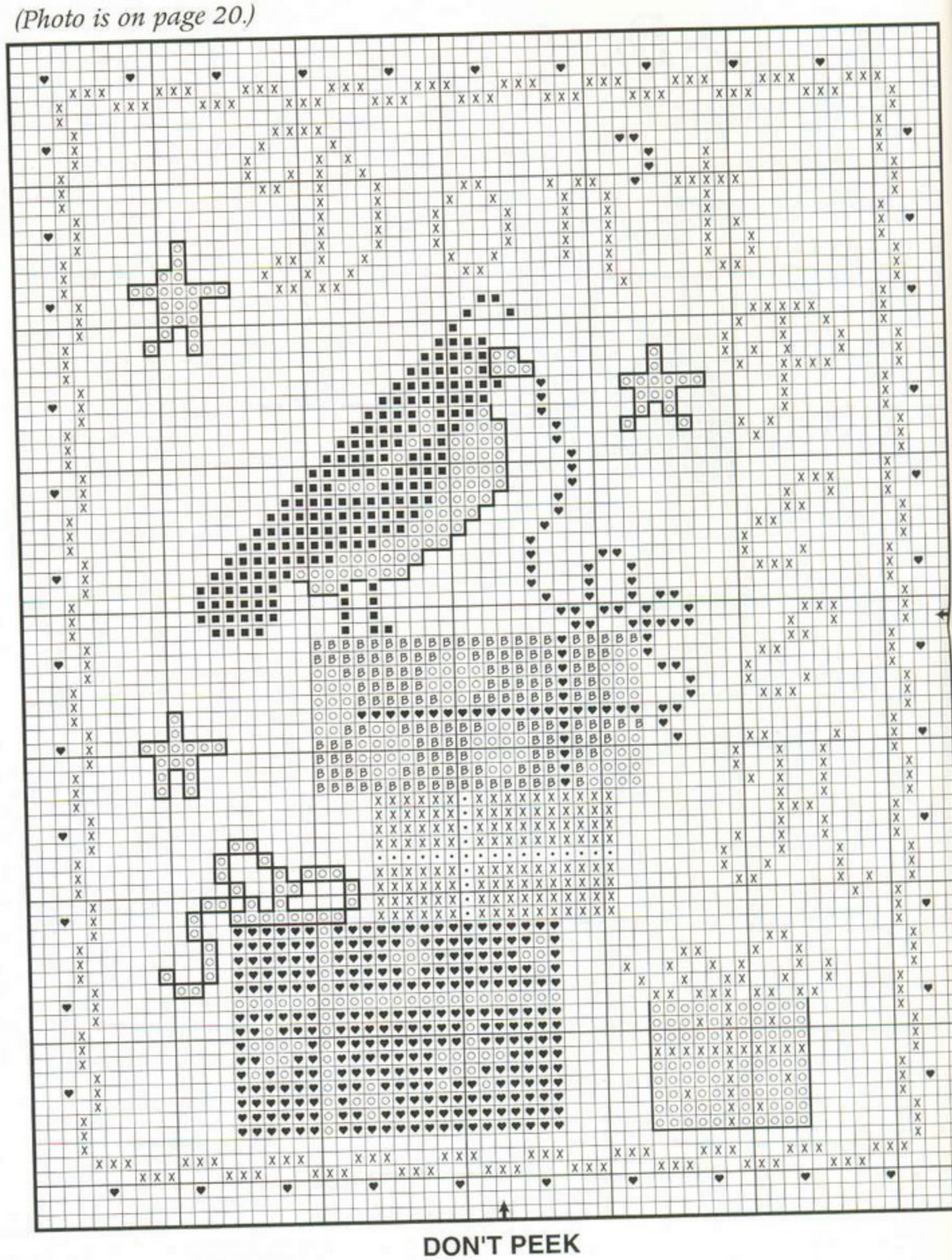
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

918	341	bow on red gift
987	244	yellow gift box
869	375	remainder of back-stitch

Finishing instructions: Design was placed in purchased wood frame. Hanger was made using a 3/4"-wide strip of coordinating fabric.

(Photo is on page 20.)



DON'T PEEK

Little House Needleworks

Diane Williams

I grew up in the once-small town of St. John, Indiana, where winters were full of snow and ice. Twenty-three years ago we moved to Tucson, Arizona, and I've seen snow fall maybe five times and ice is something found only in the refrigerator!

As a young girl, I remember well that the excitement at Christmastime came from the anticipation of opening presents. However, one particular year when I was about nine years old, that excitement came to a crashing halt.

Quite by accident, my brother Jim and I happened upon gifts that had already been wrapped and cleverly stashed under the living room love seat. Curiosity won us over, and one by one we pulled the presents out while Mom was busy elsewhere. Ever-so-carefully, I eased the tape away from the wrapping paper, revealing the contents of the boxes that were addressed to me. This was not the easiest task since my mom loved to use ribbon, which she fastened very tightly around all of the sides of the boxes. Then, methodically, I pressed the tape back into place as though they had never been touched.

It quickly became the worst Christmas of my childhood. I felt awful after peeking. When the presents were opened that Christmas, the familiar feelings of joy and surprise I had always anticipated were missing.

I'm a good girl now. The closest I ever get to "knowing" is a good shake of a well-wrapped box and the begging for just a hint or two! I don't really want to know!

WOODLAND SNOWFALL

Designed by Diane Williams of Little House Needleworks

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	3371	382	black-brown
X	433	358	brown, med.
○	420	374	hazelnut, dk.
.	712	926	cream
▲	3051	845	green-gray, dk.
♥	3777	1015	terra-cotta, vy. dk.
◑	3781	1050	mocha brown, dk.
B	3790	904	beige-gray, ul. dk.

Fabric: 12" x 6" piece 28-count 18th-century brown linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 56H x 45W
Design size: 4" x 3¾"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

(**NOTE:** Center design 2" from top edge of fabric.)

Finishing instructions: Fold fabric so right sides are together and press at center about four threads from stitched design. Using a ½" seam allowance, stitch fabric together at sides. Turn right-side out. Turn under top fabric to within about four threads of stitched design. Press toward inside of bag.

Hanger/handle was made using jute twine.

Little House Needleworks
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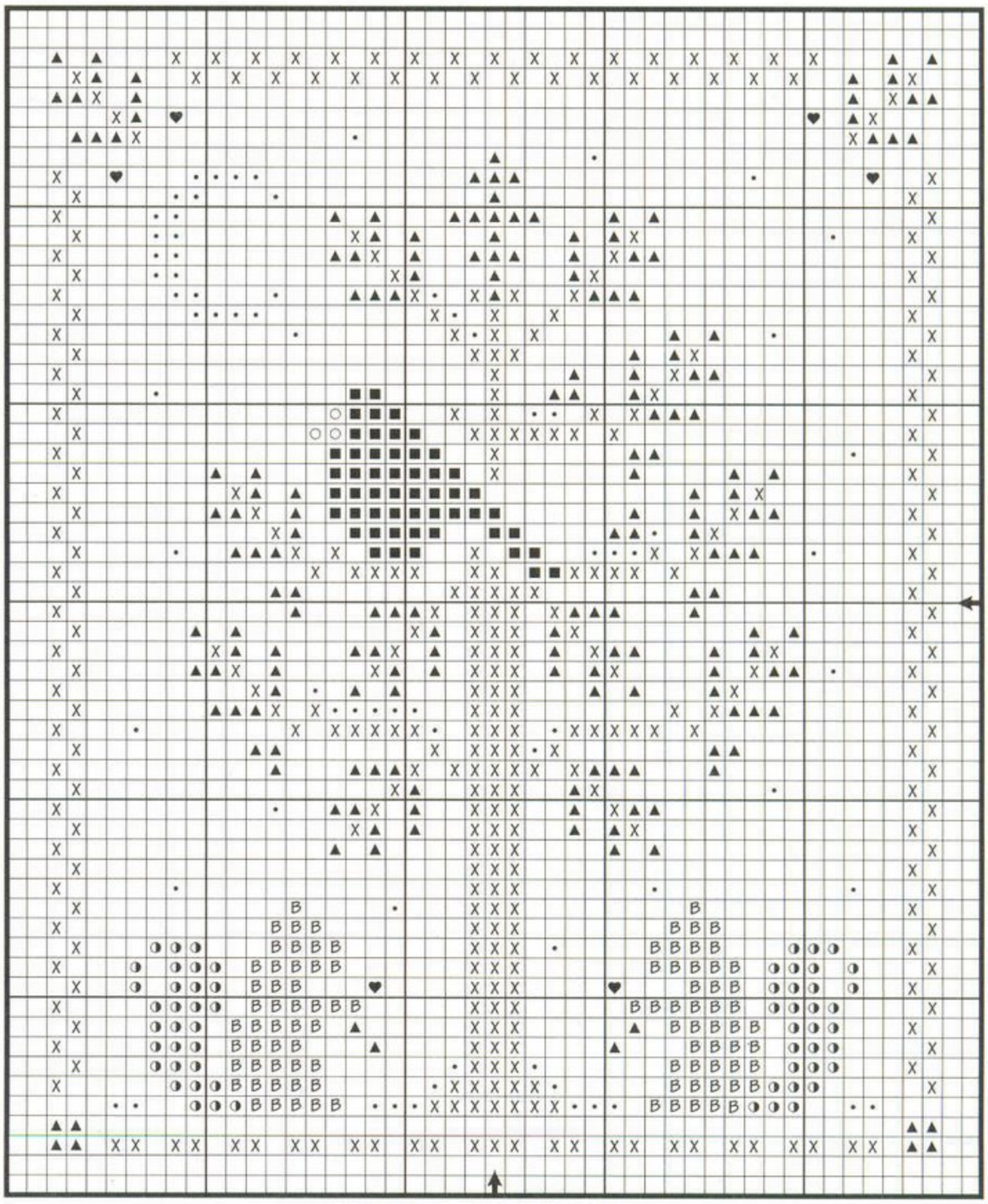
website:
www.littlehouseneedleworks.com

(Photo is on page 20.)



WOODLAND SNOWFALL

©2004 Little House Needleworks

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*Lizzie*Kate*

Linda Ebright

Desserts are my very favorite food group, so it is hard to decide which yummy treat to include this year. My daughter just requested this make-ahead pie for her 21st birthday celebration, so while the recipe is out of the box, I'll share it with you!

This frozen ice-cream pie is great because you can make it ahead and serve it later. Just put a lock on the freezer to prevent early taste-testing and a potentially smaller dessert than you had planned!

Toffee Ice-Cream Pie and Warm Sauce

17–18 vanilla wafers
½ gal. vanilla ice cream
1 c. chopped Heath® candybars
1½ c. sugar
1 c. evaporated milk
¼ c. margarine
¼ c. light corn syrup
Dash salt

Line bottoms and sides of a buttered deep-dish 9" pie pan with vanilla wafers (don't crush them; just arrange them side by side). Spoon half the softened ice cream into wafer shell. Sprinkle with ¼ cup chopped candy bars. Spoon remaining ice cream into pie pan. Top with ¼ cup chopped candy bars. Store pie in freezer until serving time.

Prepare toffee sauce by combining sugar, milk, butter, syrup, and salt in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over low heat on stovetop and boil one minute, stirring. Remove from heat and stir in remaining chopped candy bars and cool, stirring occasionally. You can store sauce in refrigerator if not using immediately. Just reheat on stove or microwave until warm and serve over frozen pie.

REJOICE

Designed by Linda Ebright of Lizzie*Kate

	DMC®	Anchor®	
▲	500	683	blue-green, vy. dk.
3	3364	261	pine green
b	932	1033	antique blue, lt.
✳	356	1013	terra-cotta, med.
○	977	1002	gold-brown, lt.
■	310	403	black
B	3862	358	mocha beige, dk.
/	3866	926	mocha brown, ul. vy. lt.

Just Another Button Company™

☆	3314S	small star
★	3314M	medium star

Fabric: One 10-count dark red prefinished Mini Mitten (4T.35.71) from Adam Originals
Stitch count: 41H x 31W
Design size: 4⅛" x 3⅛"

Instructions: Cross stitch using four strands of floss.

Work French knot where ● appears, using four strands 310/403 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Attach buttons, using two strands 977/1002.

Finishing instructions: Bow was made using a coordinating fabric strip.

*Lizzie*Kate*
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e-mail: mail@lizziekate.com
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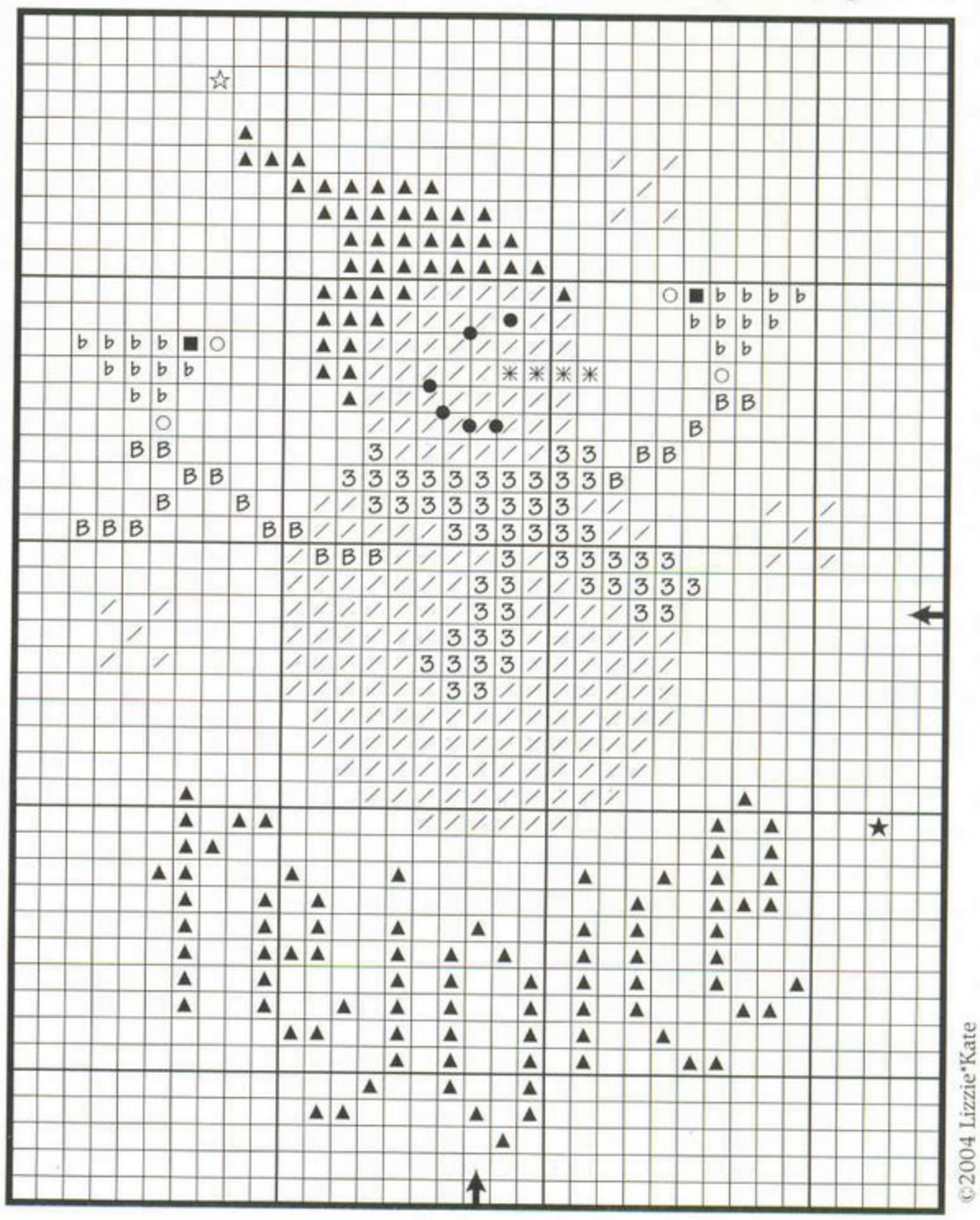
(Photo is on page 27. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



©2004 Lizzie*Kate

REJOICE

©2004 Lynns Prints

Lynns Prints

Diane Graebner

For 13 years, the three of us (Phyllis Baldwin, Mary Etta Kimes, and I) have been a team at Lynns Prints. We celebrated our 100th design in June, and we wish to thank all of you for believing in our work. This year, Mary Etta Kimes (pictured here) was the designer for our ornament. She has stitched almost every model since we started. She is a vital part of our team. Mary Etta has stitched professionally and has won numerous awards in needlework exhibits. In addition to her counted cross-stitch skills, she does petit point, needlepoint, beadwork, knitting, crochet, quilting, and she makes her own clothing, as well as her husband's.

One of the best memories of Christmas time is the baking of the cookies. I bake them for everyone just to spread the cheer (and the fat). The best moments, and the most challenging, were when the boys were young and shared in the making and baking. The moments shared, getting flour and sugar all over the floor and each other, are like precious jewels that can be brought back to mind each time I bake cookies, any time of the year. Let us continue to make "cookies" of love, which turn into memories that last a lifetime.

Lynns Prints
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Veyo, UT 84782
e-mail: dgraebner@aol.com
website: www.graebnergallery.com

BRINGING HOME THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Designed by Mary Etta Kimes of Lynns Prints

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
✳	3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
3	413	236	pewter gray, dk.
.	blanc	2	white
♥	814	45	garnet, dk.
◑	3803	69	mauve, med. dk.
▲	986	246	forest, vy. dk.
$	987	244	forest, dk.
X	501	878	blue-green, dk.
ℓ	502	877	blue-green
○	945	881	flesh
B	420	374	hazelnut, dk.

Kreinik® Blending Filament

/	014	sky blue (half cross stitch)

Fabric: 8" x 9" piece 18-count white Aida from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 69H x 56W
Design size: 3 7/8" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss.

Work half-cross stitch using two strands of blending filament.

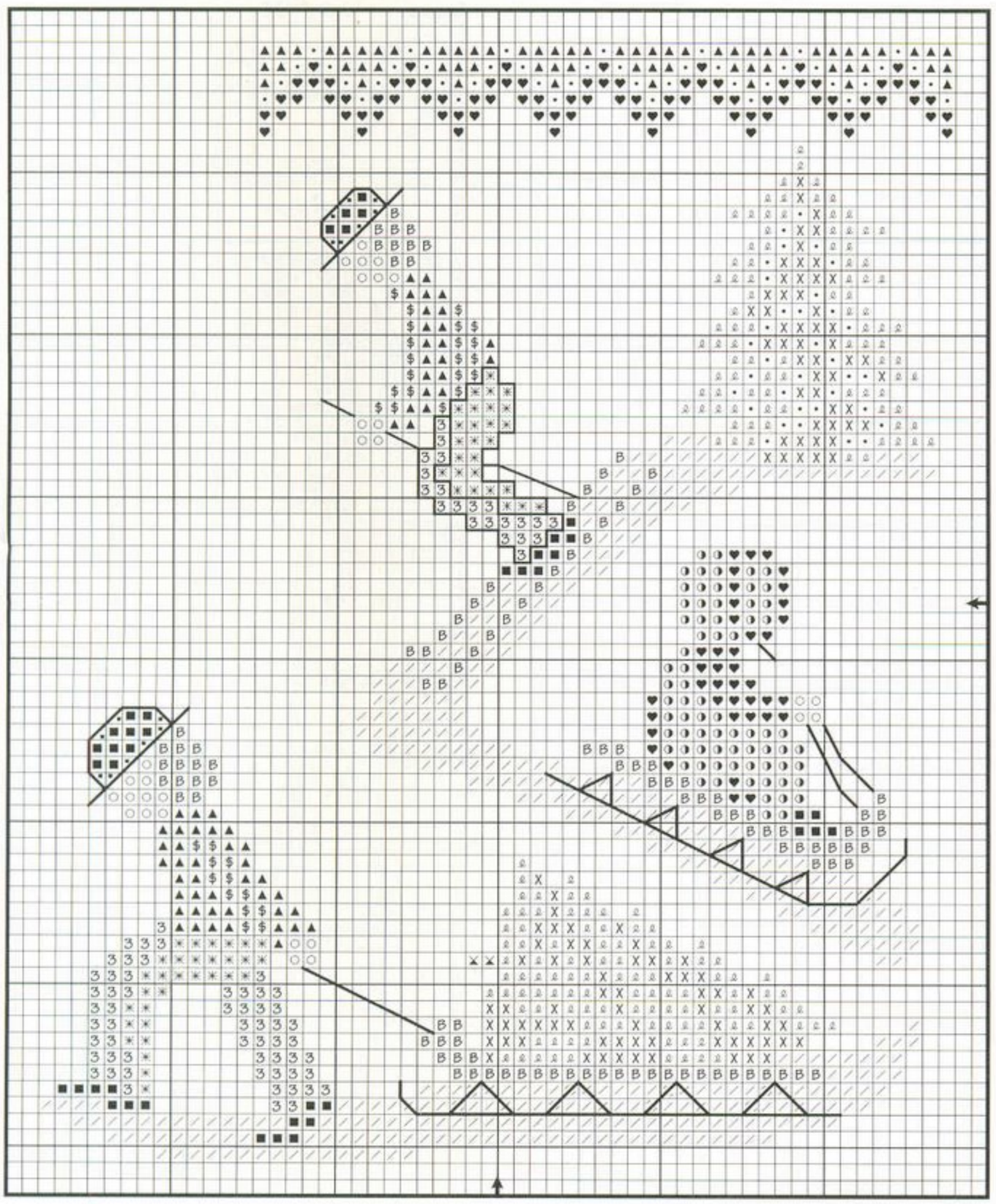
Backstitch using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Backstitch instructions:

310	403	boys' hats
814	45	girl's bonnet
413	236	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Use fabric-marking pen to mark outline of stocking. Place stitched piece on backing fabric, right-sides together. Stitch just inside outline, leaving the top open. Trim side seam to 1/4", clipping curves as needed. Trim top, leaving 1/2" to turn down for hem. Turn top under and blind stitch in place. Add a ribbon or braid handing loop. Turn stocking right-side out.

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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BRINGING HOME THE CHRISTMAS TREE

M Designs

Mary McLenon-Turley

This year my ornament conveys my Christmas wish: it's a peace tree (turn the ornament on its side and you will see that it is quite literally a *Peace* tree). When I began working on this year's ornament, I asked my children for a few "Christmas" words. They chose the words "love," "joy," "hope," and "peace." I'm still amazed that they didn't choose words like "presents," "Santa," and "toys"—maybe they do listen to me after all! Since many of our friends will still be far away this Christmas, both fighting for and trying to keep peace, we decided that "peace" was the most important word for this holiday season.

Carrot Cake

2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1½ tsp. cinnamon
1 c. chopped pecans
1 c. golden raisins (optional)
1 c. margarine, softened
1 c. white sugar
1 c. brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
4 eggs, beaten
3 c. grated (not shredded) carrots

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon in bowl. Add chopped pecans. Set aside.

In a large mixing bowl, cream margarine and white sugar. Add brown sugar gradually, beating until mixture is light.

Add vanilla to beaten eggs; stir. Add eggs to margarine-sugar mixture a little at a time, beating well. Gradually add dry ingredients, blending well. Add carrots; stir. Pour batter into a greased and floured 9" x 13" pan. Spread evenly.

Bake for 55–60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean. Cool on wire rack, then frost with cream-cheese frosting. Store covered in refrigerator.

Cream-Cheese Frosting

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 Tbsp. butter, softened
2 c. confectioners' sugar, sifted
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. grated lemon rind

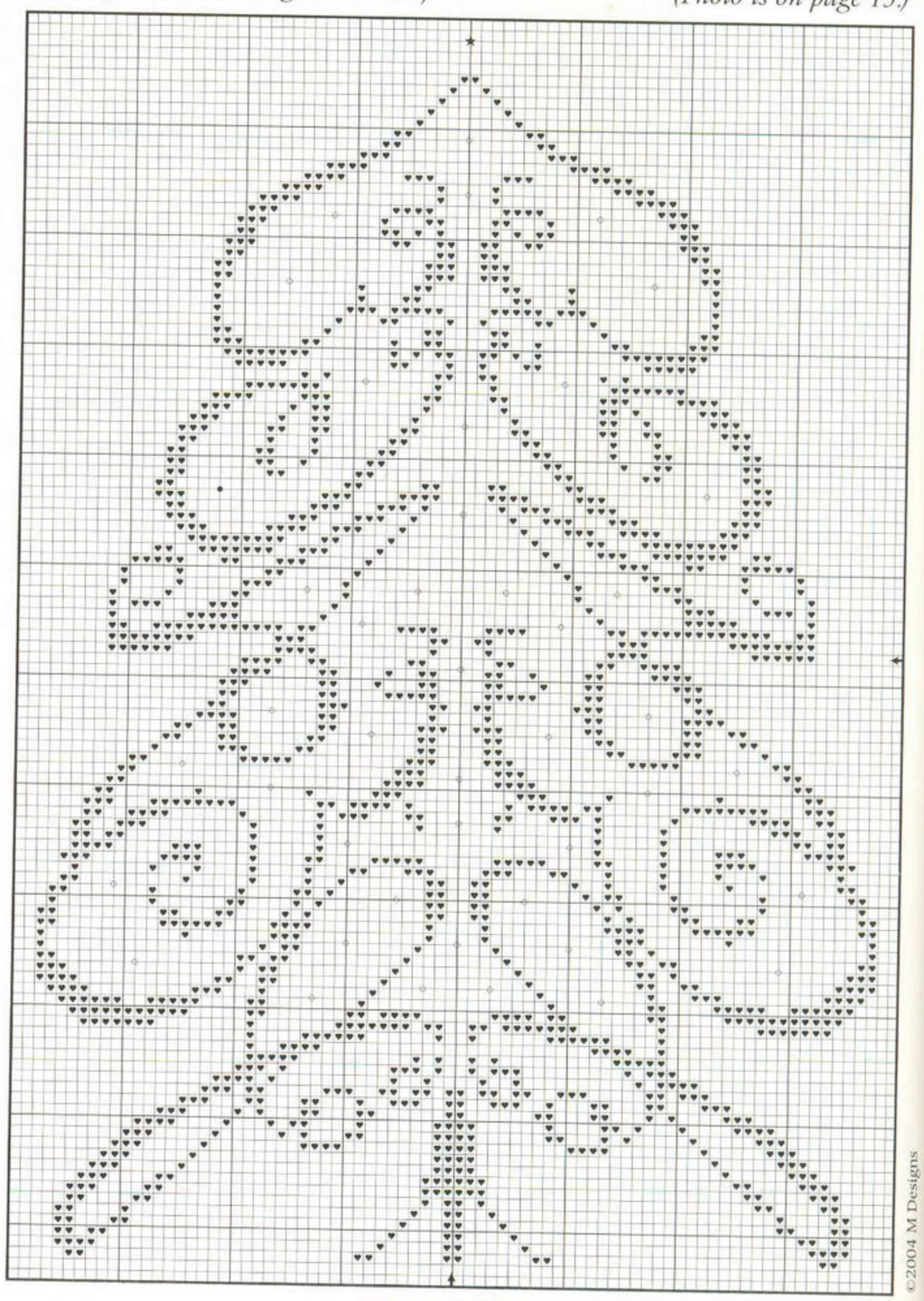
Beat together cream cheese and butter until light and smooth. Gradually add sugar. Beat well. Add vanilla and lemon rind and beat until blended. (Add a little more sugar if the frosting is too thin.)

PEACE TREE

Designed by Mary McLenon-Turley of M Designs

The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colors		
♥ 074		in the burgundy
DMC® Anchor®		
ecru	387	ecru
Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads		
○ 42012		royal plum
Mill Hill Glass Treasures		
★ 12172		small flat star, red

(Photo is on page 15.)



©2004 M Designs

PEACE TREE

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 30-count coconut macaroon Legacy linen from Access Commodities
Stitch count: 112H x 76W
Design size: 3 3/4" x 2 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand ecru/387 and a cross stitch over two threads.

Attach star, using one strand 074.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 074. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

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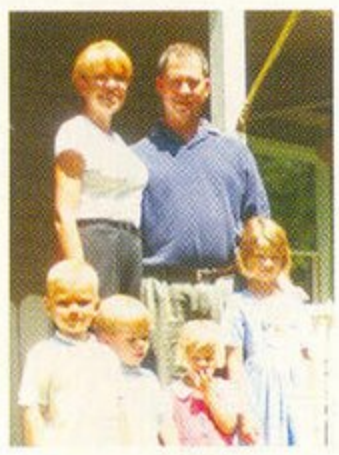
Marie's Garden

Marie Barber



This Christmas season will be extra special! In addition to my four children, who are ready to help out with cooking and baking, I have a cousin from Sweden who has moved here with her two children. She is like a sister to me. My mother, who still lives in Sweden, is coming to visit for the holidays as well.

My family wishes yours the best during the holiday season, and looks forward to celebrating the most important birthday party of the year at Christmas.

White Hot Chocolate

3 c. half-and-half or light cream
2/3 c. white baking pieces or chopped white chocolate baking squares
3" stick cinnamon
1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. almond extract
Ground cinnamon (optional)

In a saucepan, combine 1/4 cup half-and-half, baking pieces, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Stir over low heat on stovetop until baking pieces are melted

Add remaining half-and-half, stirring until heated through. Remove from heat. Remove stick cinnamon. Stir in vanilla and almond extract. If desired, sprinkle each serving with ground cinnamon.

Makes 5 servings.

GRAPES CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Designed by Marie Barber of Marie's Garden

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♥	3021	905	brown-gray, vy. dk.
♥	154	72	grape, vy. dk.
x	3740	872	antique violet, dk.
x	3834	1029	grape, dk.
3	3834	1029	grape, dk.
3	3041	871	antique violet, med.
a	3042	870	antique violet, lt.
a	3835	97	grape, med.
/	3836	90	grape, lt.
/	3743	869	antique violet, vy. lt.
.	3865	2	winter white
■	934	862	avocado black
▲	3362	263	pine green, dk.
◑	3363	262	pine green, med.
X	3364	261	pine green
ℓ	772	259	pine green, lt.
✳	3011	856	khaki, dk.
£	3012	855	khaki, med.
☽	3013	853	khaki, lt.

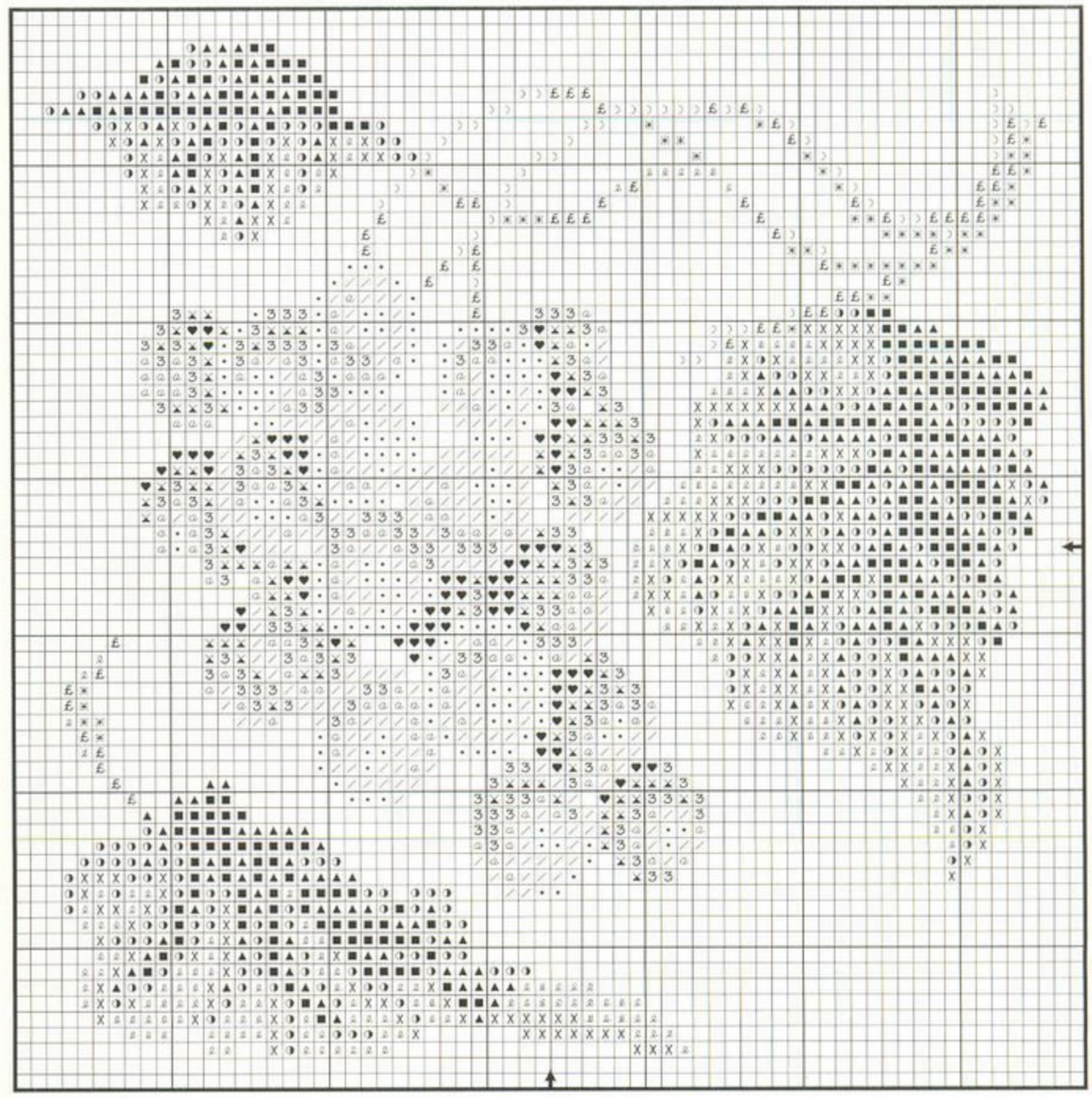
Fabric: 10" x 10" piece 16-count black Aida from Charles Craft, Inc.
Stitch count: 65H x 64W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 4"

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim was purchased.

Marie's Garden
1900 International Park Drive, Suite 50
Birmingham, AL 35243
website: www.just-crossstitch.com

(Photo is on page 16.)



GRAPES CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

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Monsterbubbles

Heather Holland-Daly

Growing up in the Midwest, I really thought I would miss a "white Christmas," but I have found that a Christmas California-style has some definite perks! Things like hanging Christmas lights with no snow or ice to contend with, picking out a tree without a coat on, and shopping on the beach are just a few! This is a recipe for a casserole I make every Christmas morning and that my mother used to make for us. It, like the season, is special for people in southern Illinois–or southern California!

Christmas Morning Casserole

12 slices buttered toast, torn in chunks
2 lbs. spicy sausage, browned and drained
2 c. grated cheddar cheese
1 qt. milk
8 eggs
Salt and pepper
Crushed Kellogg's Corn Flakes®

Grease a 9" x 13" casserole pan. Mix together sausage, toast, and cheese; pour into pan. Beat eggs with milk, salt, and pepper. Pour over the top of the bread/sausage/cheese mixture. Cover and store in refrigerator overnight.

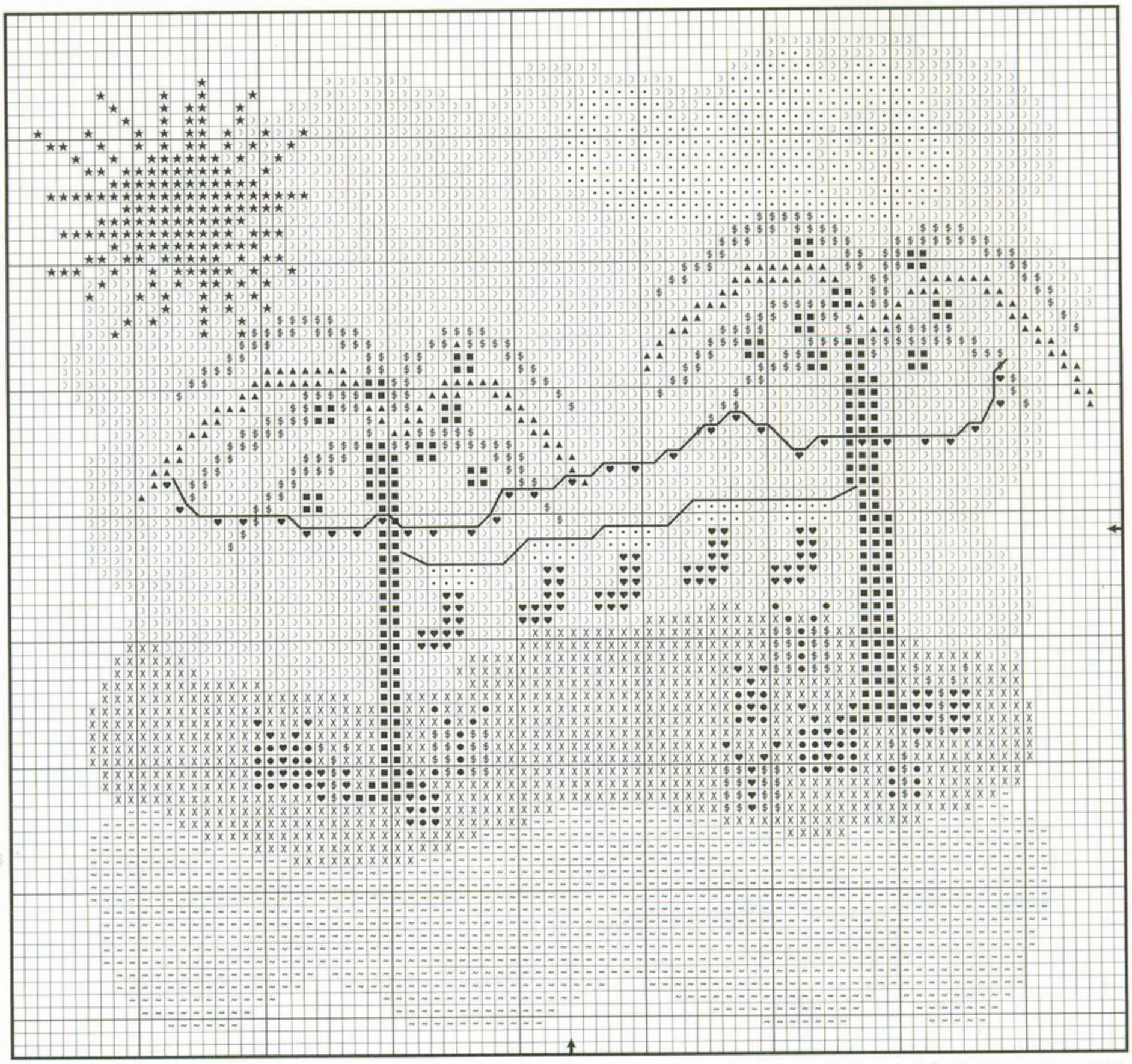
Preheat oven to 375°. Top casserole with Corn Flakes®, until covered. Bake for 45–60 minutes, until top is brown and cheese is bubbly.

MELE KALIKIMAKA

Designed by Heather Holland-Daly of Monsterbubbles

	The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colors	
▲	089	dark forest
$	085	holiday greenery
~	169	tidal pool
●	102	grape soda
☽	048	pearled blues
♥	177	simply strawberry
★	153	Indian summer
■	173	Mississippi mud
X	097	shepherd's moon
.	144	honeysuckle white

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 32-count ivory linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 79H x 84W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 5/8"



©2004 Monsterbubbles

MELE KALIKIMAKA

(Photo is on page 10.)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over one thread, using one strand 173.

Finishing instructions: With wrong sides together, pin stitched piece to second piece of backing linen. Cut in a wavy pattern around the stitched piece, getting no closer than 1/4" from the edge of stitching. Whipstitch the two pieces together every two threads along three sides, using The Thread Gatherer 083 4mm Silken Ribbon. Stuff ornament with polyfil, then whipstitch remaining side closed.

Braided hanger was made using one 10" length 083 ribbon and two 10" lengths 073 ribbon, knotted at ends and stitched at knots onto back of ornament. Trim excess ribbon to length desired.

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Mosey 'N Me

Frank and Judy Bielec

Cornmeal Drop Biscuits

1½ c. all-purpose flour
1 c. yellow cornmeal
2½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
2 tsp. sugar
½ c. unsalted butter
1 c. plus 1 Tbsp. milk

Preheat oven to 375°.

In medium bowl, combine flour, cornmeal, baking powder, salt, and sugar. Whisk to combine. Add the butter using a pastry cutter; cut in until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add the milk and stir until just combined. Spoon 10 mounds, about ½ cup each, onto a baking sheet 1" apart. Bake 20 minutes or until biscuits begin to turn brown.

Mosey 'N Me
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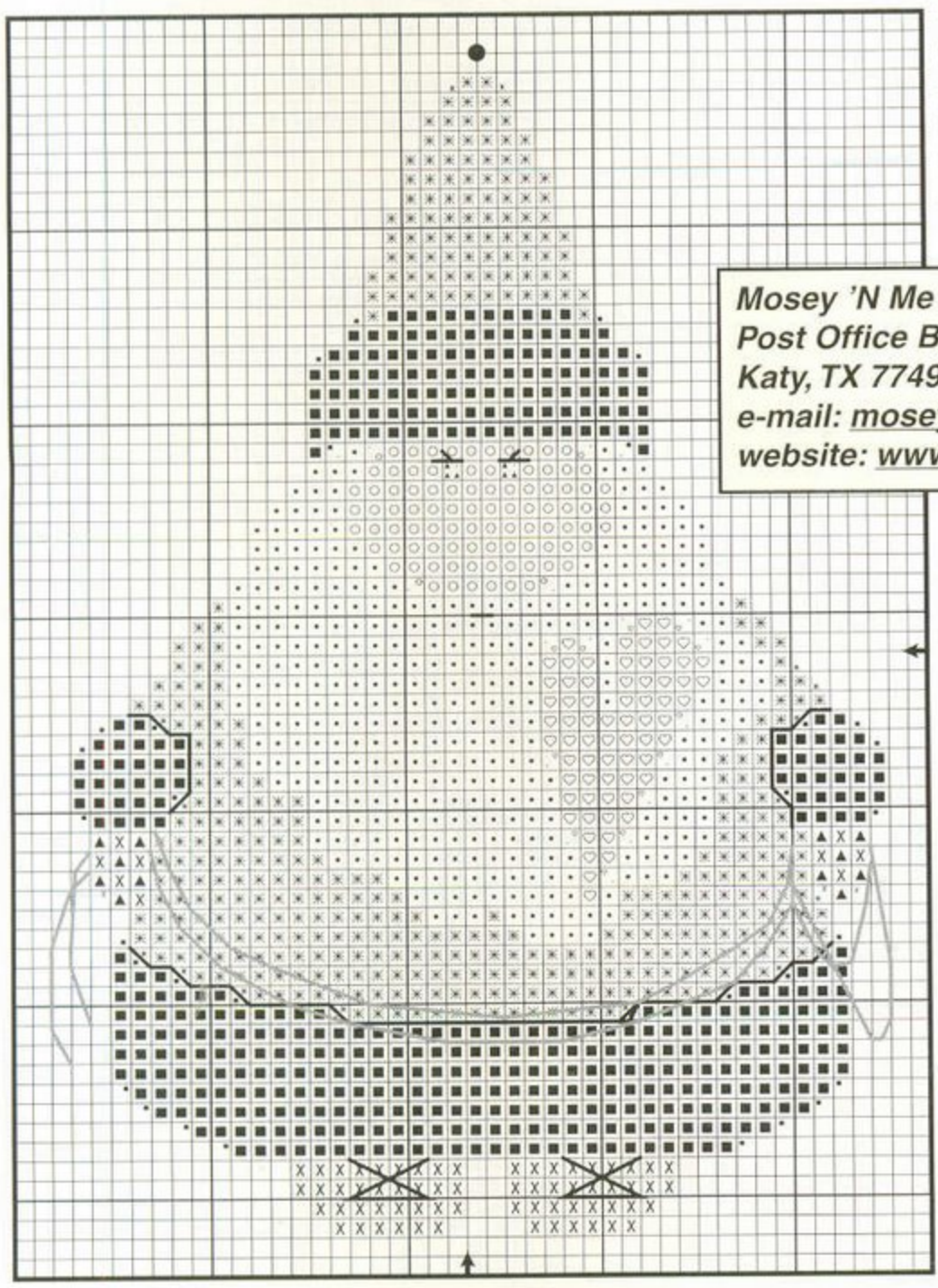
(Photo is on page 22.)



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SANTA'S TRIMMINGS

SANTA'S TRIMMINGS

Designed by Frank and Judy Bielec of Mosey 'N Me

	Anchor®	DMC®	
.	2	blanc	white
X	261	3364	loden green, med. lt.
✳	1015	347	brick, ul. dk.
♡	969	–	wineberry, med.
▲	1034	931	antique blue, med.
■	1041	844	stone grey, vy. dk.
○	1080	842	taupe, lt.

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

42011	Victorian gold

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

00332	emerald

Mill Hill Antique Glass Beads

03049	rich red

Just Another Button Company™

• 3356	white Ken

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count daisy brown linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 61H x 43W
Design size: 4 3/8" x 3 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. For small symbols in eyes, cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. For remaining small symbols, work quarter stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Attach button, using one strand 2/blanc.

Use two strands 2/blanc for garland, entering and exiting stitched piece as indicated by gray lines on chart and stringing beads as follows: one 03049, three 42011, one 00332, three 42011, and repeat.

Backstitch instructions:

969	–	mouth (four strands)
1041	844	eyebrows, top garment

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording hanger was made using 1015/347. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.)

Moss Creek Designs, Inc.

Rae Iverson

This year's ornament continues the celebration of Scandinavian handcraft traditions.

The Scandinavian word *jul* (pronounced "yule") is thought to derive from the ancient Nordic *hjul,* which meant "wheel" and refers to the idea that the sun turned, as does a wheel, through the seasons. Like the Celts and other pagan cultures in Western Europe, the ancient Nordic people believed that a spirit responsible for a healthy crop lived inside the stalks of grain and that at harvest the spirit was released. To capture the spirit and give it a winter dwelling place, various wreaths and braids were made, sometimes in the shapes of birds or animals. For some cultures, the winter solstice celebration included huge bonfires to light the dark skies. As an offering to the gods, the straw figures would be thrown into the fire, releasing the spirits to find shelter again in the crops soon to be planted. For other cultures, the first spring planting included a ritual of plowing the straw weavings back into the soil to live again and extol their blessings for another healthy crop.

These woven shapes, known as *dollies,* have become part of modern-day celebrations. Unlike the wreaths and braids of ancient times, the modern dollies are not ploughed back to the earth but have been woven into the fabric of everyday life to be enjoyed year-round, or saved for Christmas and other holidays.

In Sweden, the *julbock,* or Christmas Goat, is a glorious creature rendered in straw and tied with red ribbon. As the legend goes, he is a descendent of the goat that pulled the cart of Thor as he rode across the heavens. In modern Swedish lore, the children learn that Jultomte, the Christmas elf, laden with a sack of gifts, rides from village to village on the back of a goat. In every home, a handsome julbock dollie sits under the yule tree and watches for Jultomte, while the magic spirits within its straw guard the family from harm. *Glaedelig Jul!*

JULBOCK CHRISTMAS POCKET

Designed by Rae Iverson of Moss Creek Designs, Inc.

	Anchor®	DMC®	
■	683	890	turf green
○	905	3021	tawny, dk.
	885	746	sandstone, lt.
	The Gentle Art Sampler Threads		
X	0330		cherry wine
	0420		gold leaf
	0410		tarnished gold

Fabric: Two 6" x 6" pieces 28-count light sand Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 72H x 72W
Design size: 2⅝" x 2⅝"

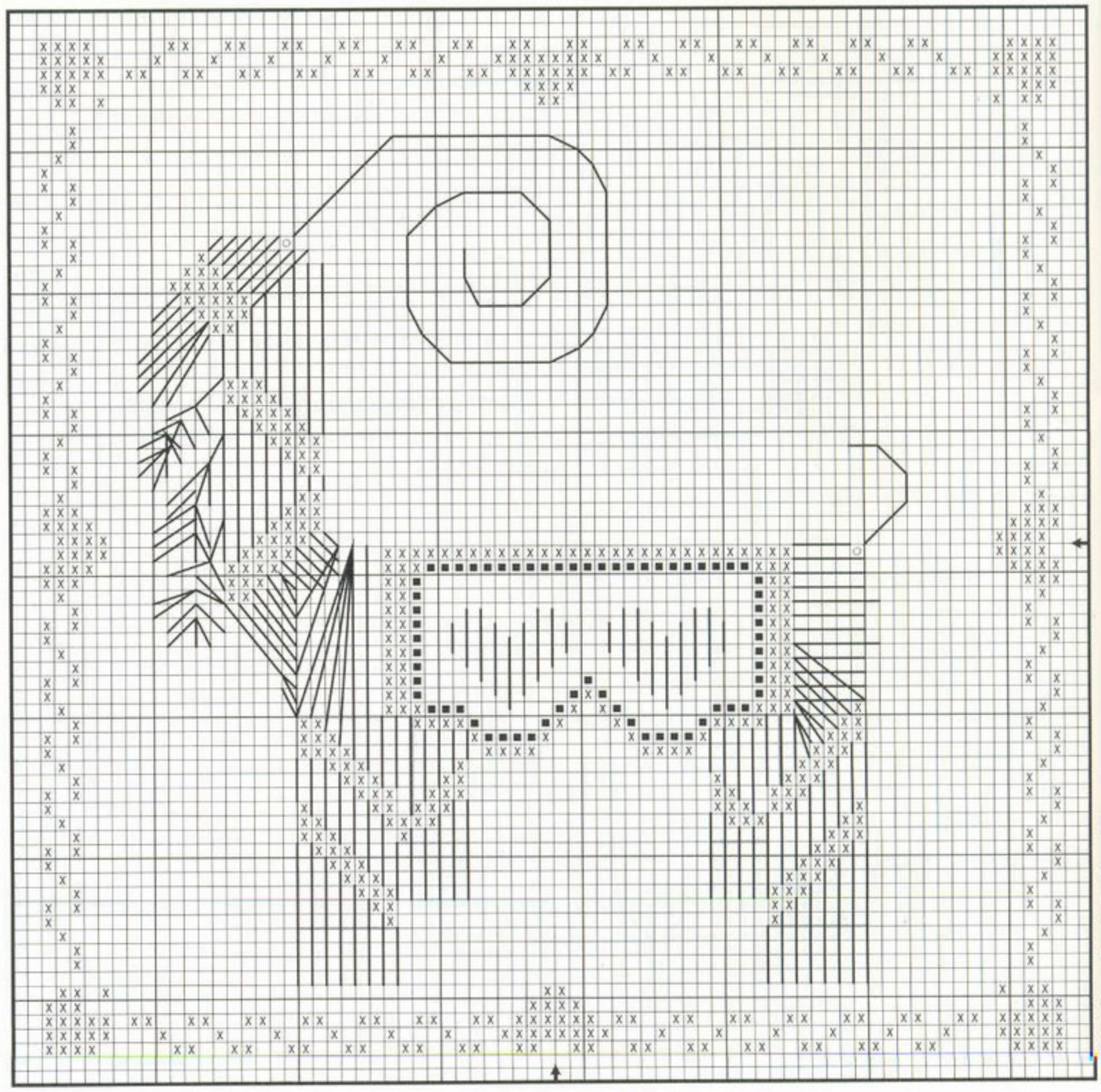
Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Work straight stitch where black lines appear for goat's body, using one strand each 0420 and 0410 and working horizontal stitches first. Work straight stitch where gray lines appear, using two strands 905.

Work straight stitch for goat's wheat-ear beard, using one strand 0410.

Work satin-stitch hearts in saddle blanket, using two strands 0330.

For braided horn and tail, combine nine 12" strands each 0410 and 0420. Using one strand 905, tie off ¼" from one end and divide floss into thirds; braid. Tie off ¼" from end, again using one strand 905. Tie off approximately 1½" from one end for tail and approximately 4¼" from other end for horns;



JULBOCK CHRISTMAS POCKET

cut 1/4" outside these ties. Beginning at farthest point and working toward goat, tack braid in place, using one strand 0410. End excess braid on wrong side of linen by inserting braid in a hole closest to stitching on goat and securing on wrong side with a tacking stitch. Trim ends short. (**NOTE:** For easier placement of horns and tail, work double-running stitch or backstitch for lines shown on chart first.)

On remaining piece of linen for backing, work border only and personalize as desired, using a favorite alphabet and one strand 683/890.

Finishing instructions: Using one strand 885/746, work broad chain stitch four threads from stitched border on both stitched pieces. Work nun's stitch ten threads from the broad chain stitch, in order to prevent raveling. Trim fabric at nun's-stitch border.

Cut lining fabric 1/2" larger than linen squares. Fold 5/8" seam allowance to wrong side.

Cut interfacing to fit inside broad-chain-stitch border. Fold seam allowance to back at broad chain-stitch border, mitering corners; press. Lightly tack seam allowance to interfacing without piercing linen.

Cut two pieces of thin cotton batting to fit nun's-stitch area. Lightly tack in place in seam allowance. Blind stitch lining to stitched pieces with wrong sides together.

Lace pocket sides and bottom together through the broad chain-stitch borders (right-side out).

Hanger was made using 10" length of The Thread Gatherer 090 Silken Ribbon (7mm), tacked to each side of pocket. A small bow of the same ribbon was tacked over the ends of the hanger.

(Photo is on page 18. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Moss Creek Designs, Inc.
Post Office Box 7066
Cave Creek, AZ 85327-7066

NeedlePlay Needlework Designs

Catherine Burroughs

My best memories of Christmas include the smell of a fresh-cut tree, the beautiful colors of ornaments and bright bulbs twinkling, presents tucked under the lower branches, and always the music, playing throughout the holidays.

There are so many snapshots in my memories of the holiday season, but what rings true throughout the years is that it is a time of year when we all remember that we are important to each other and have an intense desire to share joy: the joy of celebrating and smiling with each other; the joy of expectation and the wish to surprise each other with fun gifts; the joy of seeing the same spark in another's eyes as you feel in your heart; the joy of traditions had and many more memories made; and, of course, the joy of being happy and healthy.

I wish you and yours much joy and happiness this holiday season!

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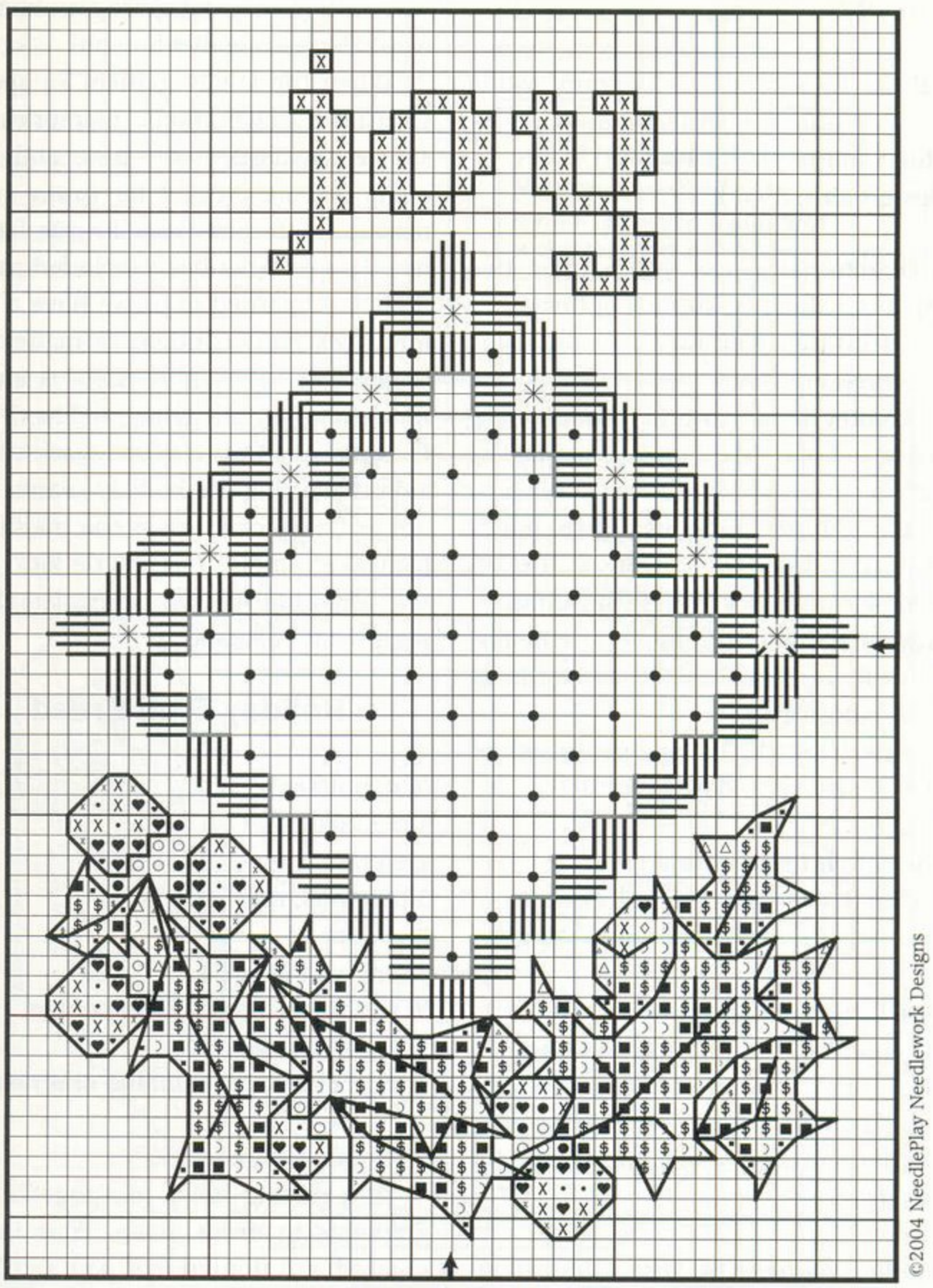

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JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS

©2004 Moss Creek Designs, Inc.

JOY OF THE HOLIDAYS

Designed by Catherine Burroughs of NeedlePlay Needlework Designs

	Anchor®	DMC®	
■	218	890	juniper, dk.
$	246	986	grass green, vy. dk.
☽	243	988	grass green, med.
♥	1005	816	cherry red, med.
X	9046	321	Christmas red
.	1098	3801	crimson red, lt.
bs	382	3371	fudge, dk.

Anchor® Pearl Cotton #8

2		white

Anchor® Pearl Cotton #12

✳	2	white (eyelet stitch)

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

●	00557	gold
○	00968	red

Fabric: 8" x 6" piece 32-count white Lugana from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 59H x 40W
Design size: 3³/₄" x 2¹/₂"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work eyelet stitch over four threads, using one strand of pearl cotton #12 and pulling each leg to open hole in center of stitch.

Work kloster blocks, using two strands of pearl cotton #8. Cut fabric threads along kloster blocks where indicated by gray lines. Carefully remove cut threads. Work woven bars, using one strand of pearl cotton #12.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch.

Backstitch instructions:

1005	816	lettering, holly berries
382	3371	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 9046/321. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

(Photo is on page 14. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Nordic Needle, Inc.

Roz Watnemo

Stitching the year onto your ornament is important, whether it be prominently displayed on the front of your ornament or discreetly stitched on the back of the ornament. For future generations, stitch the date and your initials on each ornament you make. Your children, grandchildren, and generations beyond will appreciate knowing who made their treasured ornament and when it was stitched. Don't you wish your great-great-grandmother would have done that for you?

When the family gathers for special Christmas celebrations, memories are shared of Christmases past, and new memories are created for future reminiscing. In recent years in our family, new people have been included as the "kids" get married or as we have a new foreign exchange student. No matter who is home for Christmas, there is always much laughter, gift giving, and food. This Holiday Fruit Bread is a good snack to have anytime during the holiday season. It is not as heavy or fruity as the traditional fruitcake but still has a little kick with the maraschino cherries, chocolate chips, pecans, and bananas.

Holiday Fruit Bread

½ c. butter
1 c. sugar
2 eggs
3 bananas, mashed
2 c. flour
1 tsp. baking soda
½ c. chopped walnuts or pecans
¼ c. chocolate chips
¼ c. chopped maraschino cherries

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, mix together ingredients in order given. Pour into a greased and floured loaf pan and bake for 40 minutes.

HOLIDAY HARDANGER ORNAMENT

Designed by Roz Watnemo of Nordic Needle, Inc.

	Needle Necessities Pearl 8 Overdyed	
X	8153	dazzling red

Fabric: 8" piece 2"-wide 30-count white linen Stitchband® (7271-001) from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 65H x 26W
Design size: 4¹/₃" x 1³/₄"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 8153.

Backstitch over two threads for lettering, using one strand 8153.

Work lazy-daisy stitch where loops appear in bottom motif, using one strand 8153. Work straight stitch for remainder of motif, using one strand 8153.

Work cable stitch where double lines appear for partial diamond shapes, using one strand 8153.

Work satin stitch, using one strand 8153.

Work kloster block variation, using one strand 8153.

Cut fabric threads along kloster blocks where indicated by gray lines. Carefully remove cut threads. Work woven bars, center web, and large outer web, using one strand 8153.

Finishing instructions: Trim ¹/₂" of excess fabric from both ends. Fold each end under ¹/₄", then bring sides to center to form a point on wrong side of fabric. Press, then blind stitch sides together, using white sewing thread.

Using white sewing thread, attach one Nordic Needle 7889 Metal Filagree charm at bottom and loop of 5" of Offray white ¹/₈"-wide satin ribbon at top for hanger.

(Photo is on page 14. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

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Of Female Worth

Mary Ann Mongillo

Last year, I made a double batch of this chutney and froze it in small amounts and always had it ready to take to an event or serve at home. The single batch actually will top a much larger brie (12–16 oz.) nicely. This Cherry Chutney is also great as a sandwich condiment.

Brie with Cherry Chutney

1 lb. dark sweet cherries, pitted and chopped
1 c. light brown sugar
1 tart apple, finely chopped
½ c. chopped onion
⅓ c. apple-cider vinegar
¼ tsp. ground allspice
¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
1 (8-oz.) wheel brie cheese, with rind

In heavy saucepan, combine all ingredients except brie; stir to mix. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat on stovetop. Reduce heat to medium low and cook gently for 45–50 minutes until thickened, stirring occasionally. Cool at least one hour before serving.

Heat brie in the microwave on HIGH for 30 seconds to one minute, or until softened. (Alternately, bake at 325° for 15–20 minutes—my favorite way!) Pour 1 cup of cherry chutney over brie and serve with crackers and bread.

CHRISTMAS ELEGANCE

Designed by Mary Ann Mongillo of Of Female Worth

	DMC®	Anchor®	
X	316	1017	mauve, med.
	3812	188	sea green, vy. dk.
	550	101	violet, vy. dk.
	5282	–	metallic gold, lt.

Fabric: Two 6" x 6" pieces 28-count vintage/antique ivory linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 43H x 44W
Design size: 3⅛" x 3⅛"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands 316/1017.

Work double-running stitch over two threads for black lines, using one strand 550/101.

Work double-running stitch over two threads for gray lines, using one strand 3812/188.

Work double-running stitch over two threads for gold lines, using one strand 5282.

Backstitch border, using two strands 3812/188.

On second piece of linen, backstitch border only. Personalize as desired.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Lace stitched piece together through backstitched borders, using one strand 3812/188. Twisted-cording hanger was made using two lengths 5282. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

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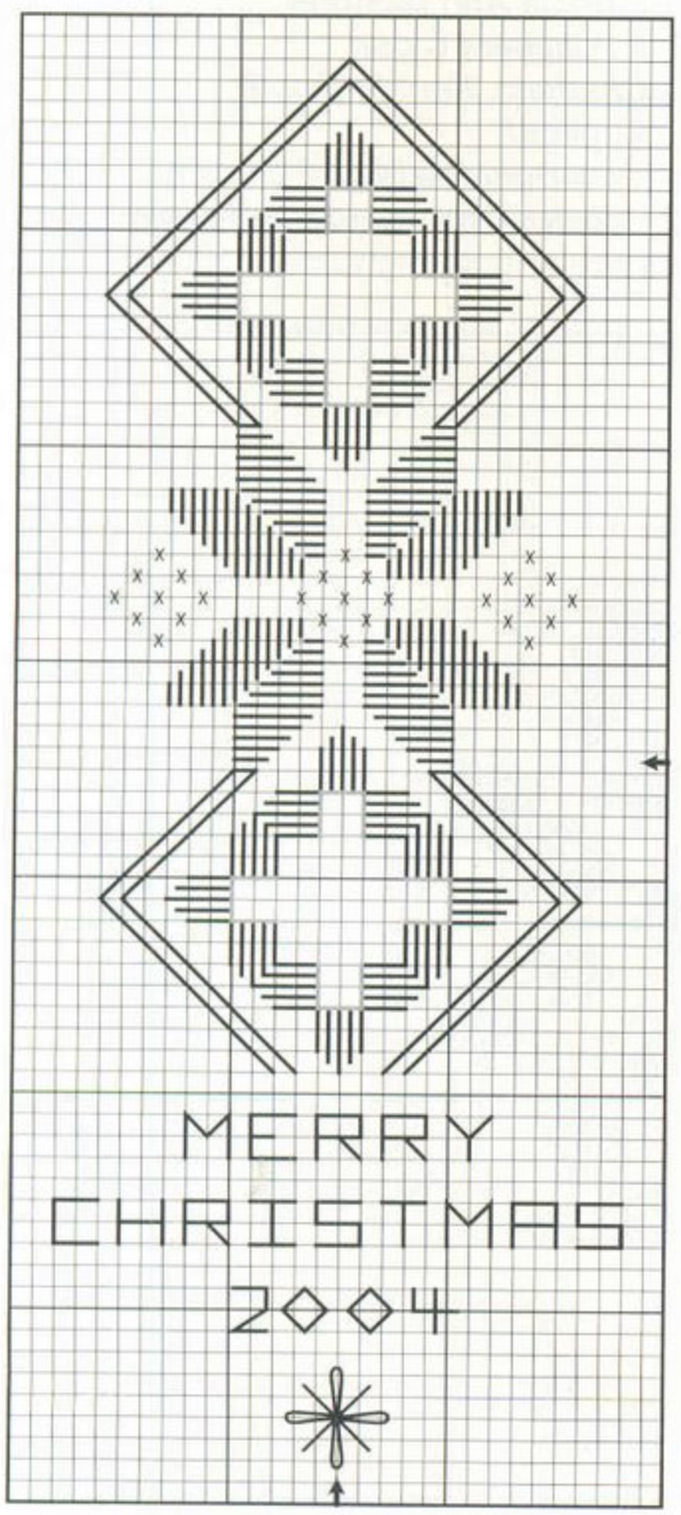
website: www.offemaleworth.com

(Photo is on page 16. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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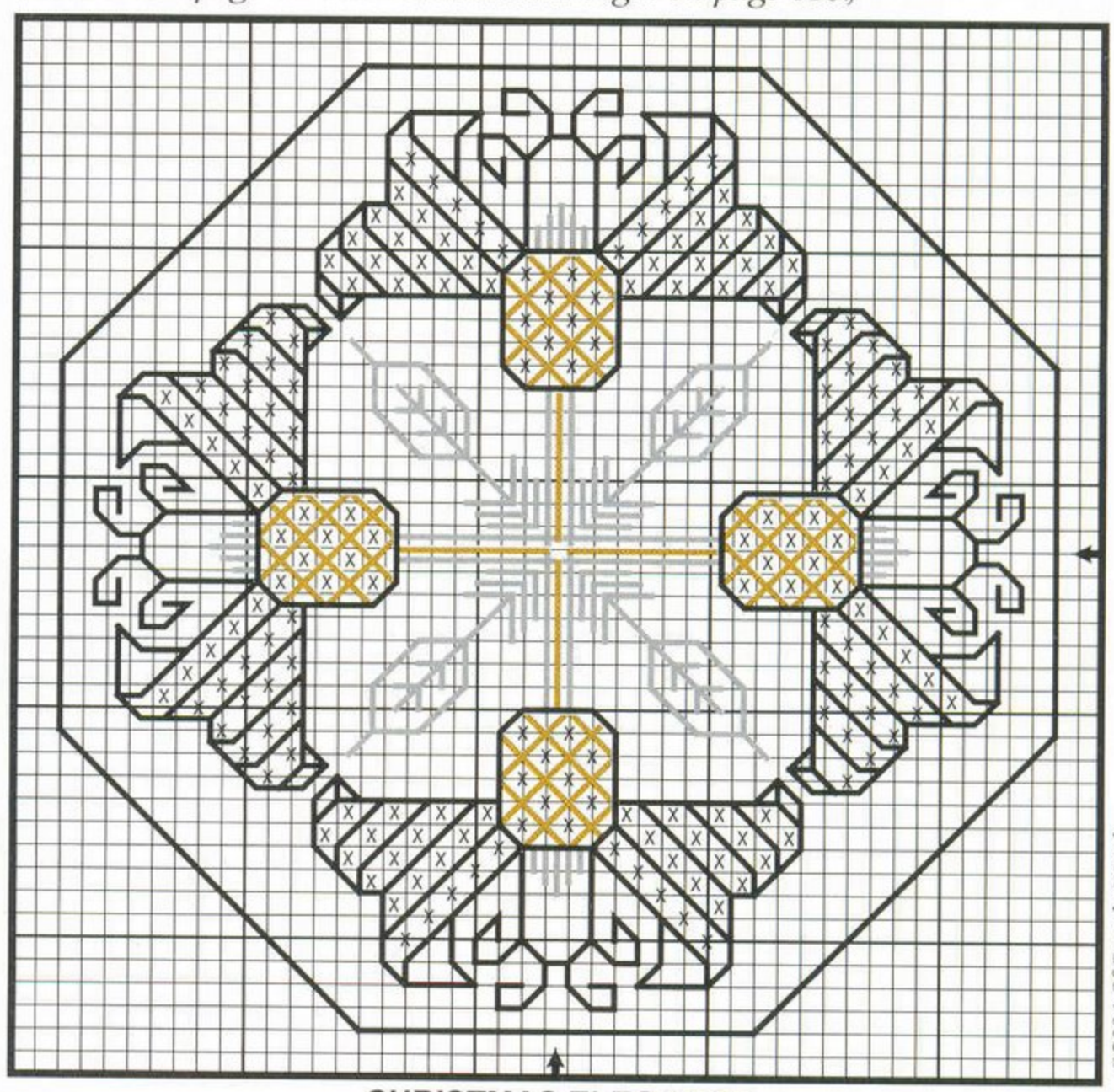
HOLIDAY HARDANGER ORNAMENT



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CHRISTMAS ELEGANCE

Patricia Ann Designs

Patricia Bage

Our Christmas celebrations begin on Christmas Eve. An English tradition is to attend a midnight carol service. Before they go to bed on Christmas Eve, our children, David, Gary, and Lauren (pictured with Patricia and puppy Charlie), will leave a mince pie for Santa and a fresh carrot for his reindeer in the fire hearth in the lounge. When we wake up Christmas morning, we gather around the Christmas tree in the lounge where Santa has delivered all the gifts and, before breakfast, we begin to open our presents. We have a traditional Christmas lunch for the whole family. Last Christmas, I prepared salmon with a lime, coriander, and chili dressing for the starter. This was so successful, and I know the family will request the same this year. Our main course is roast turkey, sage and onion stuffing, chipolata sausages wrapped in bacon, roasted potatoes, and mashed potatoes. I roast carrots, parsnips, red onions, and leeks together in olive oil with seasoned herbs and black pepper. This is served with petit pois and Brussels sprouts, with lots of hot gravy. For a sweet, we have traditional Christmas pudding with hot custard. Lunch is timed to finish so that we can all gather around the television to watch the Queen's Speech at 3 o'clock. The afternoon and evening are spent relaxing with our children and playing board games.

Boxing Day (December 26) is also a bank holiday here in the UK. This is another day spent with close family members and friends. For lunch, we would have a cold meat salad, comprised of sliced beef, turkey, and gammon [ham]. Throughout the day, the family will snack on Christmas treats, which are mince pies, Christmas cake, Yule log, chocolates, and nuts.

SAPPHIRE STAR

Designed by Patricia Bage of Patricia Ann Designs

DMC® Anchor®

blanc	2	white

DMC® Coton Perlé #12

1	white

Caron Collection Waterlilies®

017	blue lavender

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

032	pearl

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

○	02010	ice

Mill Hill Large Bugle Beads

▬	90479	white

Mill Hill Crystal Treasure

◆	13023	4mm rondele crystal

Fabric: 9" x 9" piece 28-count opalescent/white Lugana from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 38H x 38W
Design size: 2⅝" x 2⅝"

Instructions: Work diamond eyelet stitch over twelve threads in center of design, using one strand coton perlé and pulling each leg slightly to open hole in center of stitch.

Work leaf stitch for fir needles, using one strand 017.

Work straight stitches where gray lines appear around leaf stitches, using one strand of very fine braid.

Attach bugle beads and crystal rondeles, using one strand blanc/2. Attach beads, using one strand blanc/2 and a cross stitch.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim, hanger, and tassel were made using 017 and very fine braid. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 43. Tassel top was decorated with remaining glass seed beads.

(Photo is on page 27. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Patricia Ann Designs
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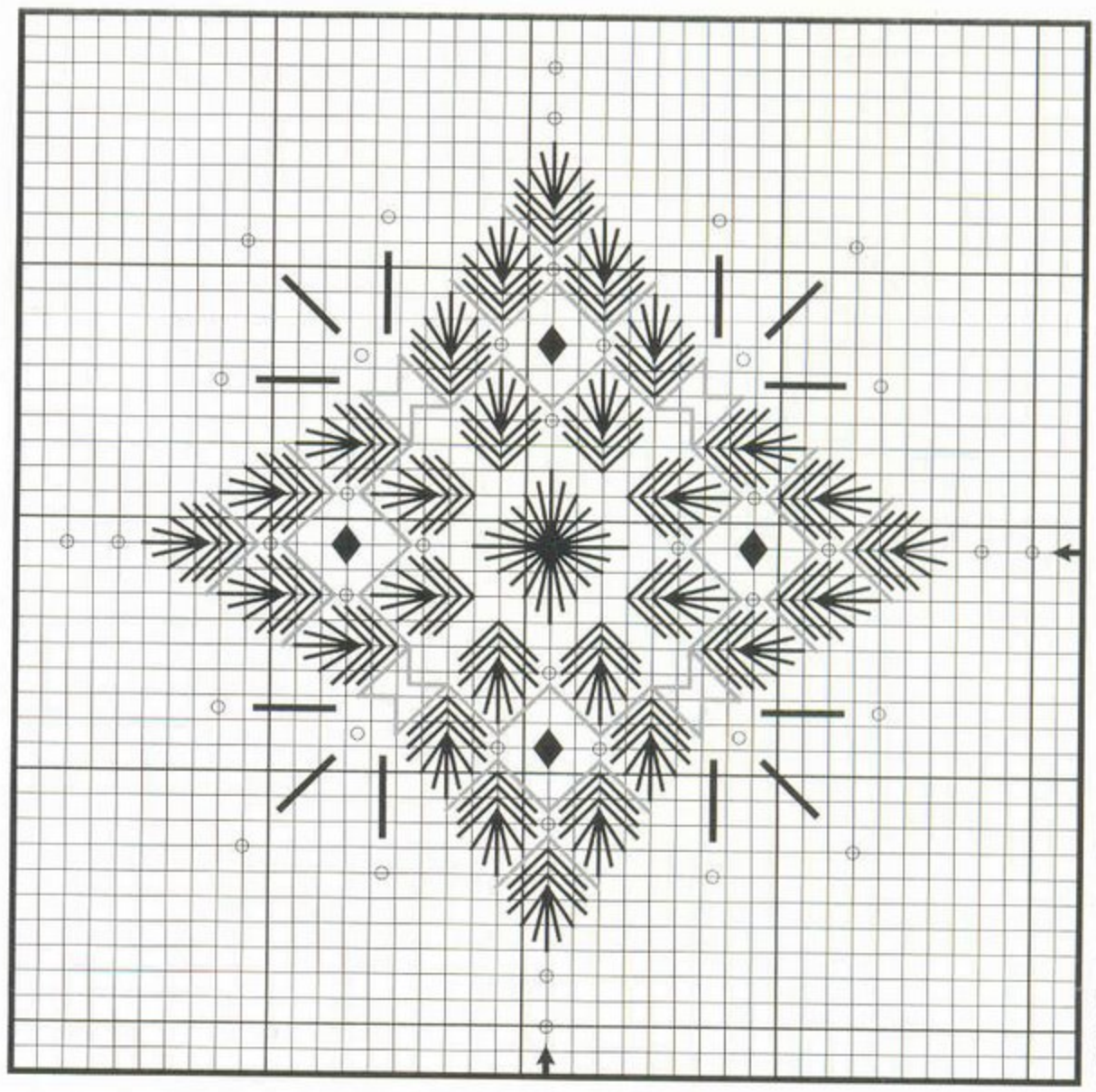

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SAPPHIRE STAR

Paw Printings

Diane Huang and
Lynn Lippman

Quick Peanut Brittle

1 c. white sugar
½ c. white corn syrup
½ c. salted, roasted peanuts
½ c. unsalted, roasted peanuts
1 tsp. margarine
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda

Stir sugar and corn syrup together in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH for 4 minutes. Add peanuts and cook for an additional four minutes, stirring halfway through.

Add margarine and vanilla, stir well, and cook for another 90 seconds.

Add baking soda and stir until foamy. Pour quickly onto a greased cookie sheet and allow to cool.

Break into pieces and enjoy.

PENGUIN HUGS

Designed by Diana Huang and Lynn Lippman of Paw Printings

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♥	3722	1027	pink, med. dk.
X	223	895	pink, med.
○	224	893	pink, lt.
~	225	1026	pink, vy. lt.
☆	742	303	tangerine, lt.
■	3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
✳	317	400	pewter gray
.	762	234	pearl gray,vy. lt.
/	B5200	1	snow white
bs	310	403	black

Kreinik® Blending Filament

032		pearl

Mill Hill Treasures

•	15001	white snowflakes

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 28-count babbling brook hand-dyed Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 51H x 41W
Design size: 3²/₃" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When stitching is complete, work half cross stitch over each white stitch in border and snow at penguin's feet, using one strand of blending filament.

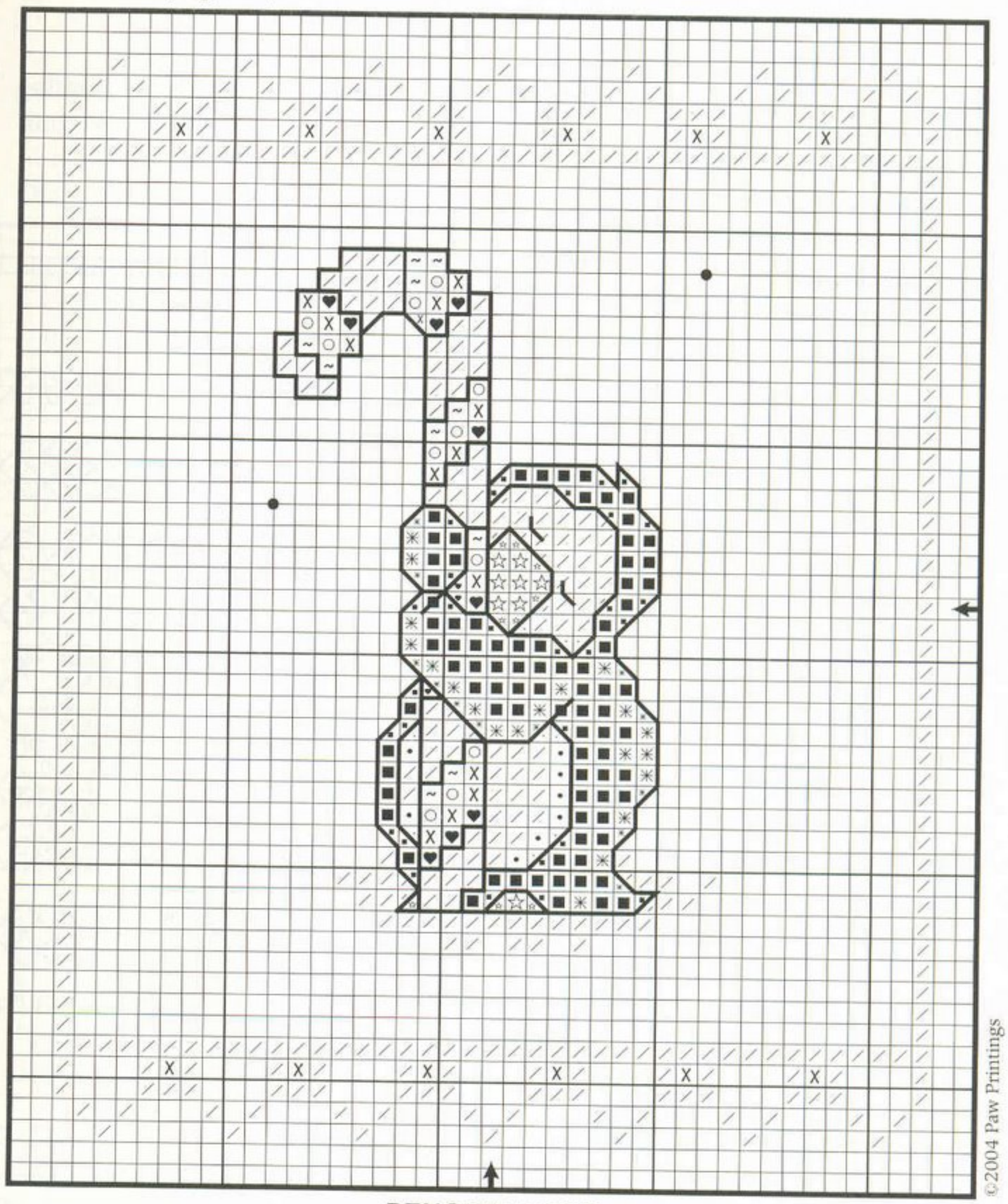
Backstitch over two threads, using one strand 310/403.

Attach charms, using one strand B5200/1.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using B5200/1 and 827/160. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Designs by Paw Prints Cross Stitch
1109 Worthington Woods Boulevard
Worthington, OH 43085
e-mail:
pawprintings@simplesystems.com
website: www.pawprintings.com

(Photo is on page 26.)



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PENGUIN HUGS

Periwinkle Promises

Barbara L. Rakosnik

This is an extremely rich, sweet cake and can be made instead of the dreaded fruitcake. Thin slices are recommended, topped off with a dollop of whipped cream. This cake also freezes beautifully, so it can be made far in advance of the holidays. I just love the name.

Sugarplum Cake

4 c. flour
1 (8-oz.) pkg. dates, chopped
1 lb. orange gelatin candy slices, chopped
1½ c. shredded coconut
1 c. chopped pecans
1 c. chopped walnuts
1 c. margarine
2 c. sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
4 eggs
Pinch of salt
½ c. buttermilk
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. orange extract
1 c. orange juice
2 tsp. grated orange rind
2 c. sifted confectioners' sugar

Preheat oven to 250°.

Sift 1 cup of flour into a bowl. Add dates, candy, coconut, and nuts. Mix thoroughly.

Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl with mixer. Add eggs one at a time, beating mixture thoroughly after each egg. Sift the remaining 3 cups of flour with soda and salt. Alternately add flour and buttermilk to the butter, sugar, and egg mixture, beginning and ending with the flour. Beat in lemon juice and orange extract. Stir date mixture into the batter by hand. The batter will be stiff.

Spoon batter into a large greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 250° for 2½ hours, or until a toothpick inserted near the middle of cake comes out clean.

Combine orange juice, orange rind, and confectioners' sugar. When cake is through baking, immediately poke several holes in the top with an icepick. Pour the orange-juice mixture over the cake.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT 2004

Designed by Barbara L. Rakosnik of Periwinkle Promises

Au Ver A Soie®
Soie d'Alger®
2924 brick red, med. dk.

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 28-count white Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 55H x 55W
Design size: 4" x 4"

Instructions: Work double-running stitch over two strands for filagree, using one strand of floss.

Work queen stitch where diamond shapes appear for inner border, using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Outline indicates stitch placement only and is not to be backstitched.)

Work four-sided stitch for outer border, using one strand of floss and pulling each leg slightly to compress fabric threads.

Finishing instructions: Trim fabric to ½" from four-sided stitch border. Fringe seam allowance.

Twisted-cording hanger was made using 2924. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

(Photo is on page 14. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Periwinkle Promises
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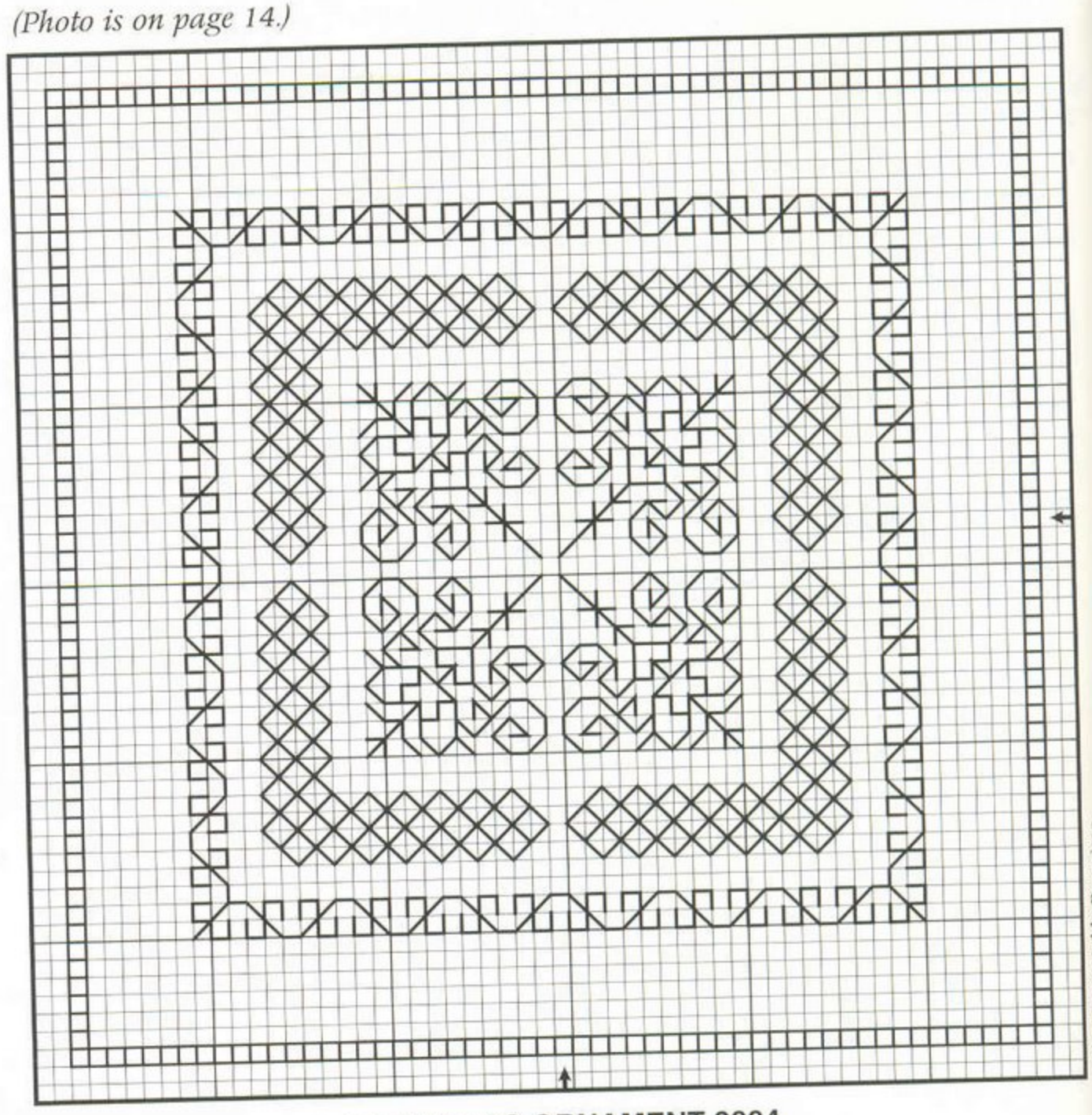
(Photo is on page 14.)



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CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT 2004

The Prairie Schooler, Inc.

Pamela Byrd Smith

This year, The Prairie Schooler hosted a reunion of our cross-stitch friends at a beautiful log house at Running Deer Farm. The log home is owned by a good friend whose hospitality made this gathering a very special event. The four-day reunion found seven friends of nearly 20 years catching up on the news about each other's families, eating, stitching, antiquing, eating, staying up late, watching movies, and, finally, more eating. We dedicate this ornament to all our great friends in the cross-stitch industry who we remember each Christmas and all through the year. For more designs see our new book, #117 *Prairie Stars.*

Date and Nut Log Rolls

Filling:

2½ c. chopped dates
1 c. sugar
1 c. water
1 c. nuts (your choice)

Combine dates, sugar, and water on stovetop and cook over low heat, stirring, until thick. Cool and add nuts.

Cookie Dough:

1 c. shortening
2 c. brown sugar
3 eggs, beaten
4 c. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. baking powder

In a mixing bowl, cream together the shortening and sugar. Add beaten eggs. In a separate bowl, sift dry ingredients together. Add to sugar mixture and mix well. Chill.

Divide dough into four parts. Roll each into ¼" thick pieces. Spread each with date/nut filling and roll into a log. Chill overnight.

Preheat oven to 350°.

Slice into ¼" thick pieces and place on greased baking sheet. Bake for 10–12 minutes.

LOG CABIN AT RUNNING DEER FARM

Designed by Pamela Byrd Smith of The Prairie Schooler, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
$	895	1044	green, dk.
♥	902	897	garnet, vy. dk.
■	3371	382	black-brown
○	612	832	drab brown, med.
/	613	831	drab brown, lt.
.	ecru	387	ecru

Fabric: 7" x 6" piece 32-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 41H x 31W
Design size: 2½" x 2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

612	832	windows
895	1044	pine trees

Finishing instructions: Cut cardboard to match stitched area. Layer a thin sheet of batting over cardboard, then place stitched piece, right-side up, over batting. Fold excess material to back; trim and glue in place.

Use template given on page 118 to cut Kunin ruby (OH1) Rainbow Classic Felt. Center stitched piece on felt; glue into place.

Twisted-cording hanger was made using 902/897. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

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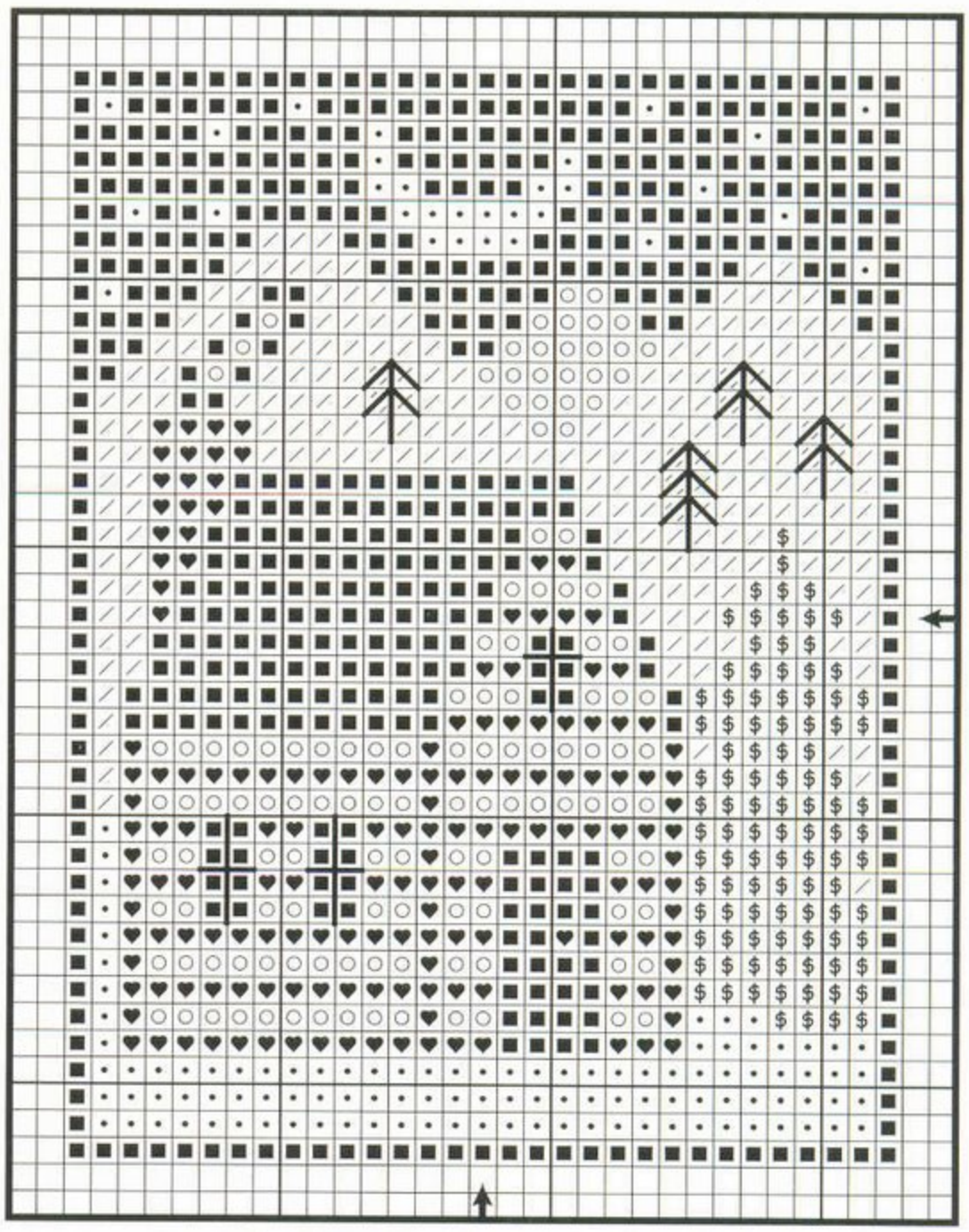
(Photo is on page 28.)



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LOG CABIN AT RUNNING DEER FARM

The Samplar Workes

Page Dorsey

My mom made spritz cookies when I was a child, and I've continued the tradition for my family. These are my husband's favorites and so festive.

Spritz Christmas Tree Cookies

1 c. butter
3/4 c. sugar
1 egg
2 1/4 c. flour
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/8 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. green food color
Colored sprinkles
Colored sugars
Cookie press with "tree" disk

Preheat oven to 400°.

In a mixing bowl, cream butter until soft, then add the sugar gradually. Add the egg, mixing well. Add the flour, baking powder, salt, and vanilla. Add the food coloring. Place the "tree" disk in the cookie press. Add the dough to the cookie press. Press the cookies onto ungreased cookie sheets. Decorate with colored sugars or sprinkles.

Bake for 10–12 minutes, or until the edges are just golden. Remove immediately from the cookie sheets and cool on wire racks.

Makes about five dozen cookies. I usually double the recipe!

The Samplar Workes
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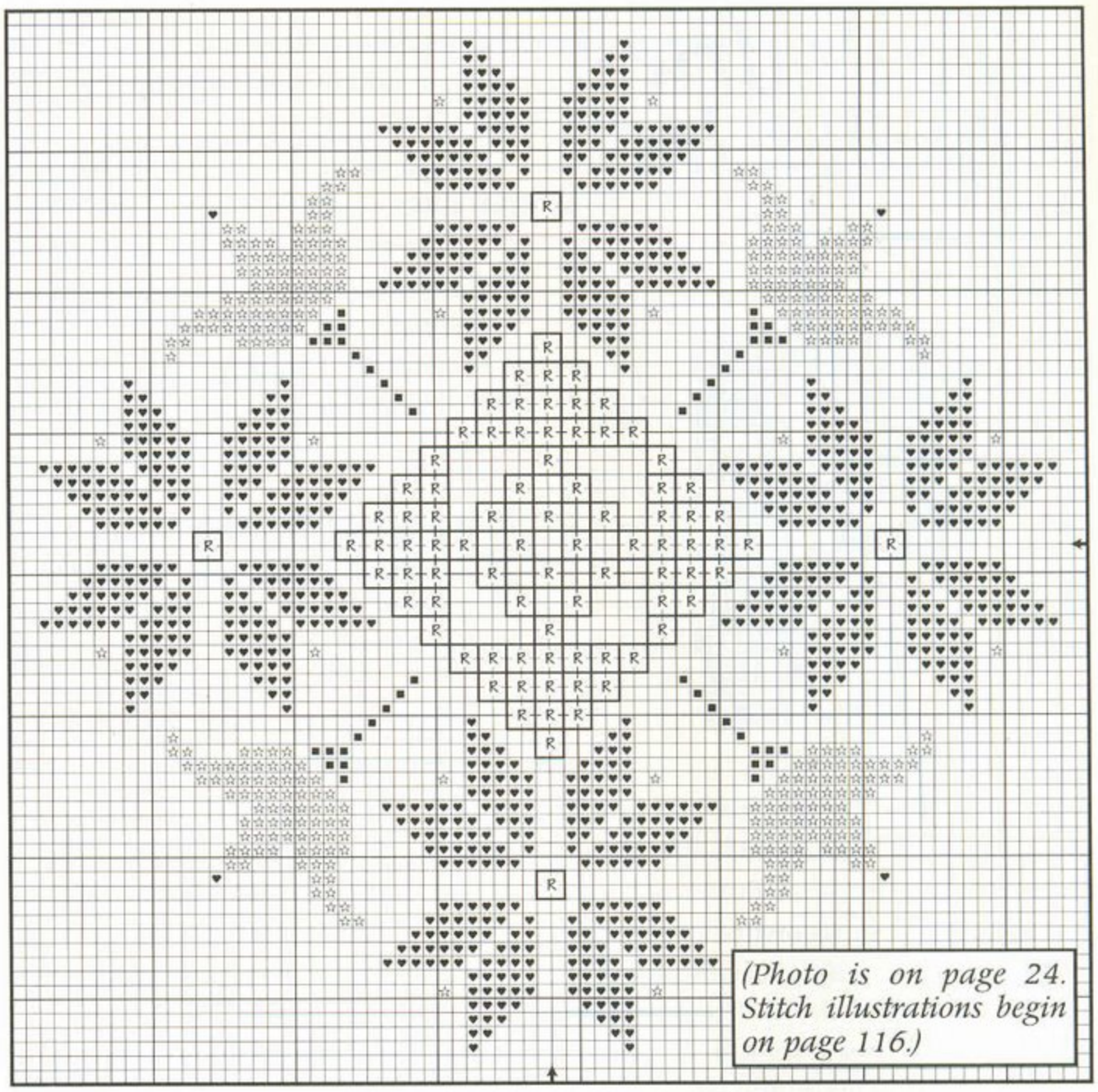


QUAKER MOTIF ORNAMENT

©2004 The Samplar Workes

QUAKER MOTIF ORNAMENT

Designed by Page Dorsey of The Samplar Workes

	Au Ver A Soie®	
	Soie 100/3®	
♥	524	wine
☆	303	gold
■	756	green, dk.
R	756	green, dk. (rice stitch)

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 45-count examplar Italian linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs
Stitch count: 72H x 72W
Design size: 3 1/4" x 3 1/4"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Work rice stitch over four threads, using one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Outlines indicate stitch placement only and are not to be backstitched.)

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Trim was purchased.

Samplers and Such

Rebecca Dorrie

This dish is wonderful! Margaret made it as an appetizer last Christmas for our stitching group, and we were practically fighting over who got the last serving.

Margaret's Kielbasa

2 (14-oz.) links Hillshire Farms® Polska Kielbasa
1 (18-oz.) jar apricot preserves

Cut the Kielbasa into slices about 1/8" to 1/4" thick and lightly brown in a medium-size frying pan on stovetop. Drain off any fat and return to heat, adding the jar of apricot preserves until it melts. Simmer in the sauce for a few minutes and serve.

WINTER WHEAT

Designed by Rebecca Dorrie of Samplers and Such

Traditional Colorway

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

■ 0390 buckeye scarlet
○ 0120 pine

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

001 silver
002HL gold hi lustre

Fabric: 10" x 6" piece 28-count antique white linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count:

Top Piece	28H x 38W
Bottom Piece	18H x 18W

Design size:

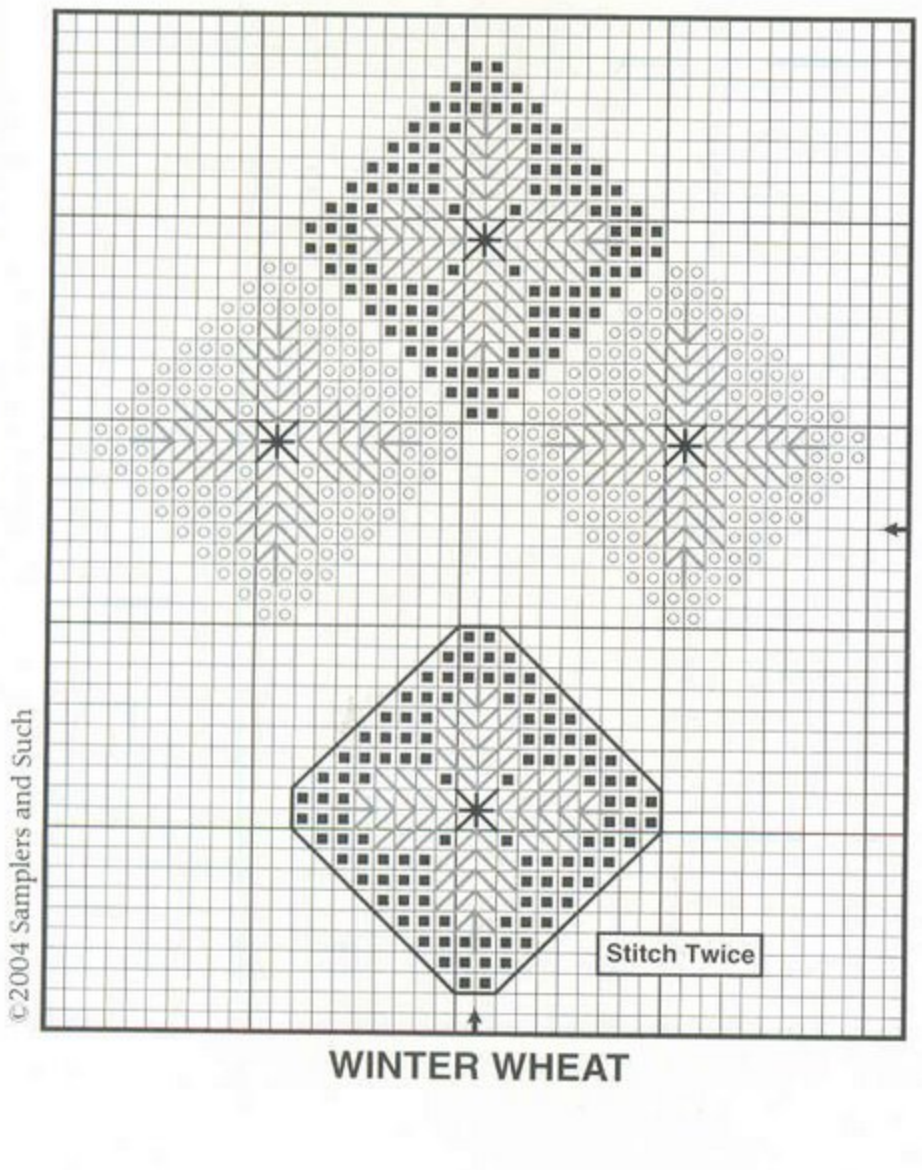
Top Piece	2" x 2¾"
Bottom Piece	1⅜" x 1⅜"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work one top design and two bottom designs.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads for center of each motif, using one strand 001 in red squares and one strand 002HL in green squares.

Work wheat stitch where gray lines appear, using one strand 002HL in red squares and one strand 001 in green squares.

Backstitch over two threads for border of bottom design, using one strand 0390.



WINTER WHEAT

©2004 Samplers and Such

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. The two small separate diamonds form the front and back of the bottom piece of the ornament.

Twisted-cording trim and hanger for top piece were made using 002HL. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Lace the two small pieces together through the backstitching, using one strand 002HL and leaving the tails of the very fine braid at one corner. Stitch these tail ends to the inside corner of the top piece of the ornament, leaving enough room for the small diamond to hang freely.

Blue Colorway

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

■ 0240 midnight

Olde Willow Hand-Dyed Floss

○ 207 token of love teal

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

001 silver
033 royal blue

Fabric: 10" x 6" piece 28-count antique white linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count:

Top Piece	28H x 38W
Bottom Piece	18H x 18W

Design size:

Top Piece	2" x 2¾"
Bottom Piece	1⅜" x 1⅜"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work one top design and two bottom designs.

Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads for center of each motif, using one strand 001 in light blue squares and one strand 033 in dark blue squares.

Work wheat stitch where gray lines appear, using one strand 033 in light blue squares and one strand 001 in dark blue squares.

Backstitch over two threads for border of bottom design, using one strand 0240.

Finishing instructions: Finish as for previous colorway but substitute 001 for trim and hanger and for lacing sides and bottom of piece.

(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Samplers and Such
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website: www.samplersandsuch.com

SamSarah Design Studio/ Just Another Button Company™

Patti Connor and Cecile McPeak

Last year, we introduced you to our first employee. Next up is Kathy Cussanelli. Kathy used to live across the street from Cecile. In the early days of our business, we convinced her to come to work for us, since she was looking for a part-time job. She cheerfully endured a couple of afternoons a week in Patti's basement. When it got cold, we moved her to Cecile's (heated) basement. Kathy now works much more than full-time in our office, even though we keep promising her fewer hours. She is a treasure, and we honestly wouldn't be where we are today without her. Here is Kathy's family tradition and a favorite holiday recipe:

Christmas has always been a three-day holiday for our family. The 23rd is spent preparing for the following two days.

Christmas Eve is spent with my husband Dan's side of our family. This

day is filled with loud talking, laughing, storytelling, and lots of food all day long. Christmas Day is at home with my side of the family. We are a bit more subdued. Still lots of laughing, talking, game-playing, and eating–just at a lower decibel.

Now that both of our daughters, Lauren and Gina, are away at school every day of Christmas with them is precious.

Chewy Snickerdoodles

1 1/2 c. sugar
1 c. butter-flavored vegetable shortening
2 eggs
2 3/4 c. flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
1 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
Cinnamon sugar (for garnish)

Preheat oven to 400°. In a mixing bowl, mix sugar, shortening, and eggs. Stir in flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, and salt. Shape dough by rounded teaspoons into balls and roll in cinnamon sugar. Place 2" apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake until set, about 8 minutes. Cool one minute before removing from cookie sheet.

A GIFT FROM MY HEART

Designed by Patti Connor of SamSarah Design Studio/Just Another Button Company ™

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss
▲ 2237 hazelnut
■ 2158 juniper

The Gentle Art
Sampler Threads
. 1140 oatmeal
$ 7023 green pasture

Crescent Colours
Hand Dyed Floss
♥ Manor Red
✳ Crab Cakes
○ Blooming Crocus

Just Another Button Company™
4447.T holly leaf (2)
2208.W wee carrot nose
2263.T tiny white rose
nh1045S sleigh bell

Fabric: 13" x 12" piece (cut into one 13" x 7" piece and two 13" x 2 1/2" pieces) 28-count English ivy linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 55H x 58W
Design size: 4" x 4 1/4"

Instructions: On top half of 13" x 9 1/2" piece of linen, cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Work French knots where ● appears, using one strand 2237 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Attach buttons using one strand of matching floss. (**NOTE:** Refer to photograph on page 26 for button placement.)

Tie bows of floss on gifts, using two strands Crab Cakes for the top gift, and two strands 2158 for the bottom gift.

Finishing instructions: Cut 14 1/2" x 7" piece of cream cotton lining fabric. Lay lining and stitched fabric, right-sides together, aligning top edges on each side. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew together at top edges. Press so 1/4" of lining fabric shows above top edge of stitched fabric.

Fold bag so right sides of linen are together and right sides of lining are together. Using a 1/2" seam allowance, sew down sides of both fabrics, leaving a 2" opening in one lining seam for turning. Turn inside out, so right side is now outside. Blind stitch opening closed.

Tuck lining inside stitched bag.

To make handles, fold 13" x 2 1/2" pieces of linen lengthwise. Using a 1/4" seam allowance, sew around edges, leaving a 2" opening for turning. Turn right-side out and blind stitch opening closed. Press. Sew onto bag, using 3/8"-diameter cream buttons.

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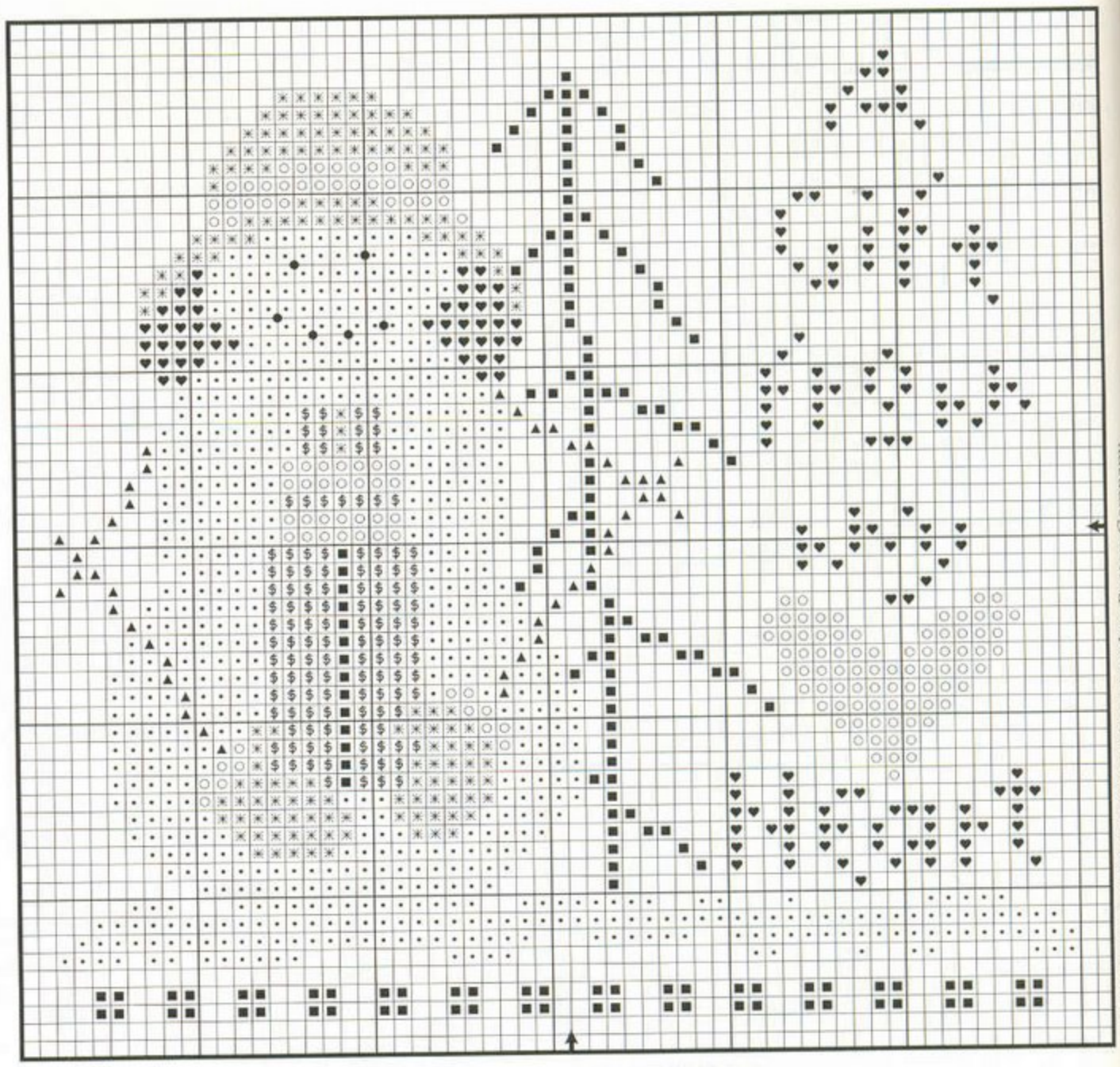
(Photo is on page 26. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)



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A GIFT FROM MY HEART

Scandinavian Stitches

Lynda Baldauf

My sister, Susan (far right), and I designed this year's ornament. She has such a gift for creative finishing! Needlework has always been our family's hobby. My grandmother taught my mother (second from the left) to knit when she was four years old. My grandmother also taught my sister, Diana, how to sew when she was a girl. Susan and I love to stitch. I started my first stitching project when I was nine. From that day on, I was hooked!

Our mother always encouraged us to make Christmas presents. She often knit sweaters for us. How did she manage to keep three knitting projects hidden from her daughters? Today she knits for my dad (second from the right) and the grandkids, too. I learned from her the great sense of peace and satisfaction of making something with your hands, which is such an important thing. Family traditions continue: my teenage daughters love to knit and cross stitch!

NORWEGIAN ORNAMENT

Designed by Lynda Baldauf and Susan Mundle of Scandinavian Stitches

	Danish Flower Thread DMC®		
■	201	823	navy
X	400	321	red, dk.
.	600	blanc	winter white
○	48	725	deep yellow
$	237	469	avocado

Fabric: 6" x 3" piece 30-count unbleached German linen from Scandinavian Stitches
Stitch count: 61H x 21W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 1 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of flower thread or two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Trim excess fabric to 1" of stitched area. Fold bottom and side seam allowances to back along edge of stitching; finger press in place. Tack in place on back. Fold top seam allowance to back to create a rod pocket. Tack in place. Insert hanger through rod pocket. Hanger was made using a 10" loop of 1/8" red ribbon. Tassel was made using 237/469, while red and silver beads were strung for tassel hanger. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 43.

Scandinavian Stitches
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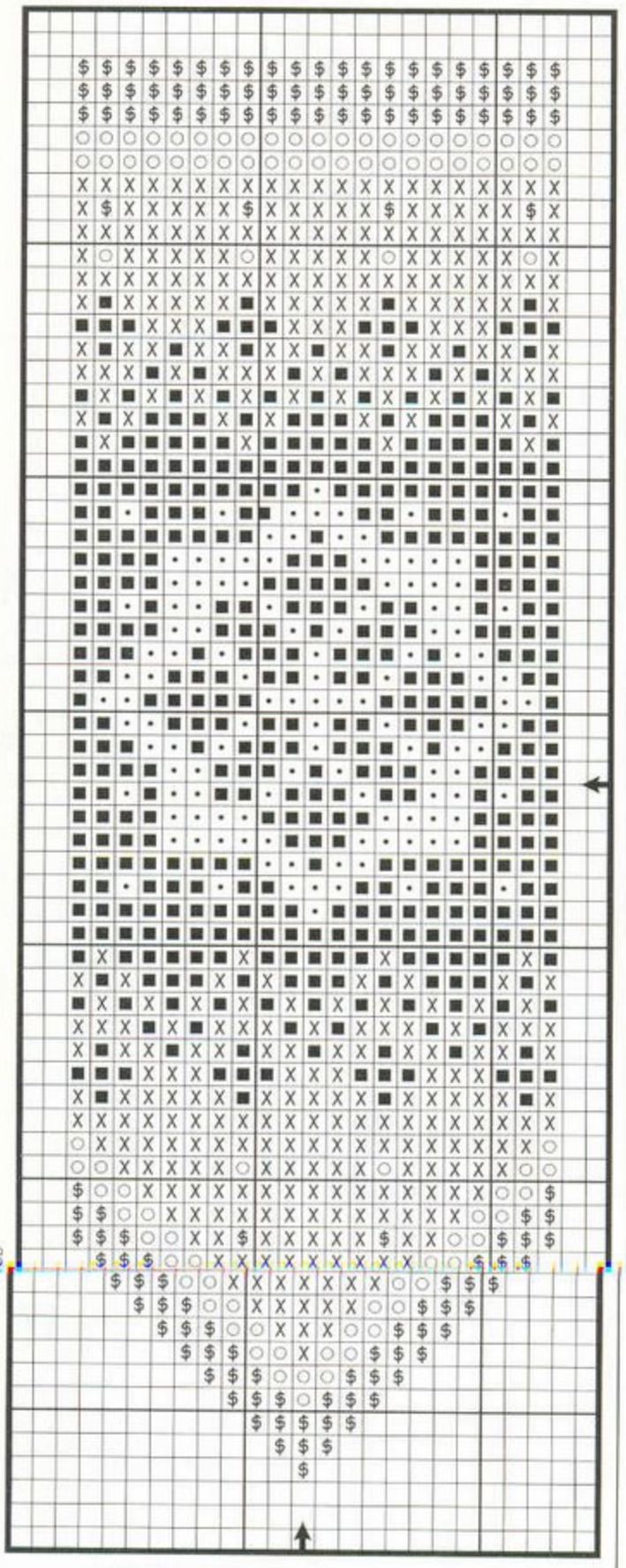
website: www.scandinavianstitches.com

(Photo is on page 12.)



©2004 Scandinavian Stitches

NORWEGIAN ORNAMENT

Serendipity Designs

Carolyn Meacham

With the world in turmoil and divided on supposedly religious lines, it seems especially important at this time of year that we remember the love and forgiveness that Christ came to give us. It's also a good time to reflect on the blessings that God has given this nation and to spend some time being a blessing to someone else. Invite that lonely person to Christmas dinner. Send a care package to our soldiers. Find time for someone who needs you.

Christmas is also a time of sharing your home with friends and family, and one of my favorite company hors-d'oeuvre recipes is below. It's super easy, absolutely delicious, and great with the crispy sesame rice crackers sold in the health-food stores.

Hot Crab-Artichoke Dip

1 c. mayonnaise
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 (13-oz.) can quartered artichoke hearts in water, drained
1/2 c. finely chopped onion
2 (6-oz.) cans white crabmeat, well drained
3/4 c. coarsely grated Parmesan cheese
Salt to taste

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a mixing bowl, blend mayonnaise and softened cream cheese until smooth. Chop artichoke hearts into bite-sized pieces. Stir into the cream-cheese mixture along with the remaining ingredients and season to taste. Place the mixture in a glass or pottery baking dish. Bake uncovered for 15–18 minutes. Put it under the broiler for a minute or two until lightly browned on top and serve with crisp, mildly flavored crackers.

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THE CRYSTAL FOREST

Designed by Carolyn Meacham of Serendipity Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
▲	801	359	coffee, dk.
*	433	358	brown, med.
	434	310	brown, lt.
B	434	310	brown, lt.
	002 Kreinik®		gold
X	434	310	brown, lt.
	435	365	brown, vy. lt.
•	435	365	brown, vy. lt.
	002 Kreinik®		gold
☆	002 Kreinik®		gold
	3820	306	straw, dk.
bs	367	216	pistachio, dk.
	001HL Kreinik®		silver hi lustre
	014HL Kreinik®		sky blue hi lustre

Kreinik® Fine Braid #8

002HL gold hi lustre

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 32-count driftwood Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 60H x 59W
Design size: 4" x 3⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two or more colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch (bs) over two threads, using three strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using three strands DMC 642 six-strand embroidery floss and two strands Kreinik® 002HL Fine Braid. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

(Photo is on page 18.)

Serendipity Designs
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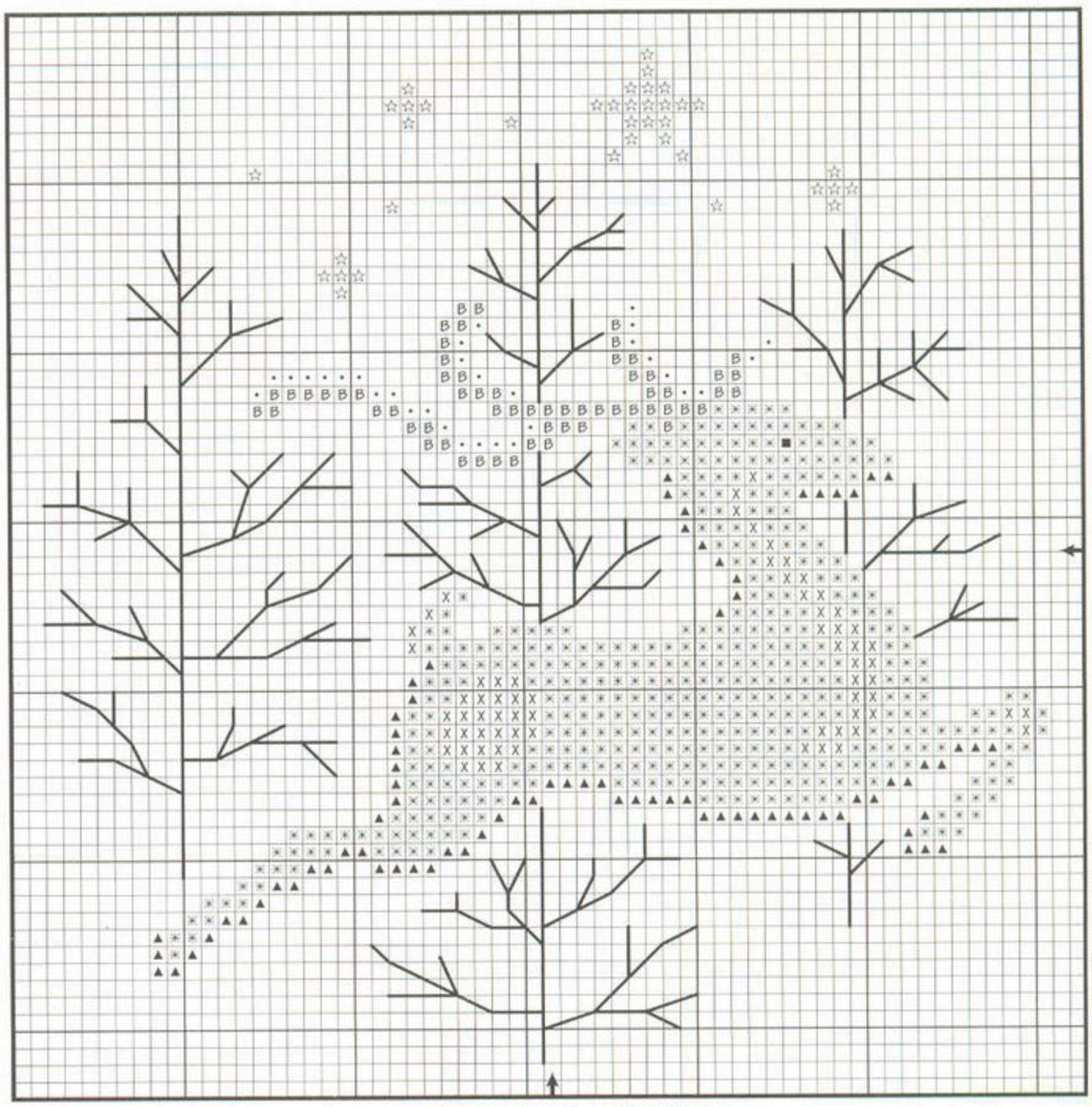
Shepherd's Bush Printworks

Teri Richards and Tina Herman

This ornament is the fifth in a series of nativity ornaments we started in 2000.

When Teri and I were growing up, our Advent season always started with the unpacking and setting up of our manger scene. It always seemed very special as some of the pieces were new—which we had purchased recently—and some were very old, from our mother's family crèche. Each figure was always wrapped a particular way in very old newspaper, and Mary and Joseph and the Baby were always bundled together so that they wouldn't be lonely during the long wait to December. My father and older brother made the little stable before Teri and I were even born, and often we would venture out to the barn to bring back fresh hay for the manger. We still have that little scene; and, when Christian was tiny, I would find the Baby Jesus in a new resting spot every day of the holiday season.

Now we each collect manger scenes from all over and love getting them out every year. Teri has one that she bought in France and has added to it over the years. Last year, I had my heart set on a fabulous one made out of recycled coke cans, but everyone at work was shocked, so I haven't acquired it yet. May this stable bring the joy of Christmas into each of your hearts!



THE CRYSTAL FOREST

©2004 Serendipity Designs

IN A STABLE

Designed by Tina Richards Herman and Teri Richards of Shepherd's Bush Printworks

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss

$	2196	scuppernong
■	1233	cocoa
○	1109	angel hair
♥	1336	raspberry
★	1223	schneckley
X	1246	sage
B	1284	cadet
bs	2158	juniper

The Gentle Art
Simply Shaker Sampler Threads

.	7002	straw bonnet

Shepherd's Bush Printworks
Sterling Silver Charm
star

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 32-count dark expresso linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 39H x 40W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach charm above stable roof, using one strand 1109.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

2158	vine and stems
1284	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Four strips of complementary flannel fabrics were sewn together to create a frame for the stitched piece. Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119.

Hanger was made using 1/2"-wide hand-dyed green ribbon.

(Photo is on page 16.)

Shepherd's Bush Printworks
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Ogden, UT 84401
website: www.shepherdsbush.com

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IN A STABLE

Sisters & Best Friends

Amy Bruecken and Koneta Ann Hurlstone

One of our favorite childhood memories is the Christmas that our nanny gave us our dollhouse. But she didn't just buy us a dollhouse; she built us one with the help of some friends. "Built" doesn't really describe it either. She designed, hammered, decorated, and furnished it for us from the ground up. We had decorator carpet and foil wallpaper and a patio with a stone floor and a Christmas tree with miniature presents under it. The best part though, beyond the house, was that she wrapped each piece of furniture, down to the toilet paper that she trimmed and wound herself. There was an entire wicker laundry basket filled to the brim with green and red foil paper packages, each with a bow, that we took turns opening forever! Nanny is our Christmas angel, and we both try to fill our Christmas seasons with the joy and wonder she gave our childhood.

Hot Mulled Cider

1/4 c. firmly packed light brown sugar
1 qt. apple cider
1/2 tsp. grated orange peel
1/4 c. orange juice
1/4 tsp. whole cloves
2 whole allspice berries
3 cinnamon sticks
1 tsp. lemon juice
Dash of ground nutmeg

In a large saucepan, dissolve sugar in cider over low heat; add other ingredients. Bring to boil and reduce heat. Simmer 20 minutes. Strain and discard spices. Serve hot.

Sisters & Best Friends
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PEACE

Designed by Amy Bruecken and Koneta Ann Hurlstone of Sisters & Best Friends

Crescent Colours Hand Dyed Floss

- ■ Rainy Day
- ☆ Sunshine Girl
- / Lemon Lime
- ▲ Really Teally
- X Caribbean Waters
- . Lettuce Leaf
- ♥ Prickly Pear
- ~ Organza Pink

Sisters & Best Friends Buttons
teal star (five)

Fabric: 6" x 8" piece 28-count eggshell linen from Crossed Wing Collection
Stitch count: 35H x 60W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 4 1/4"

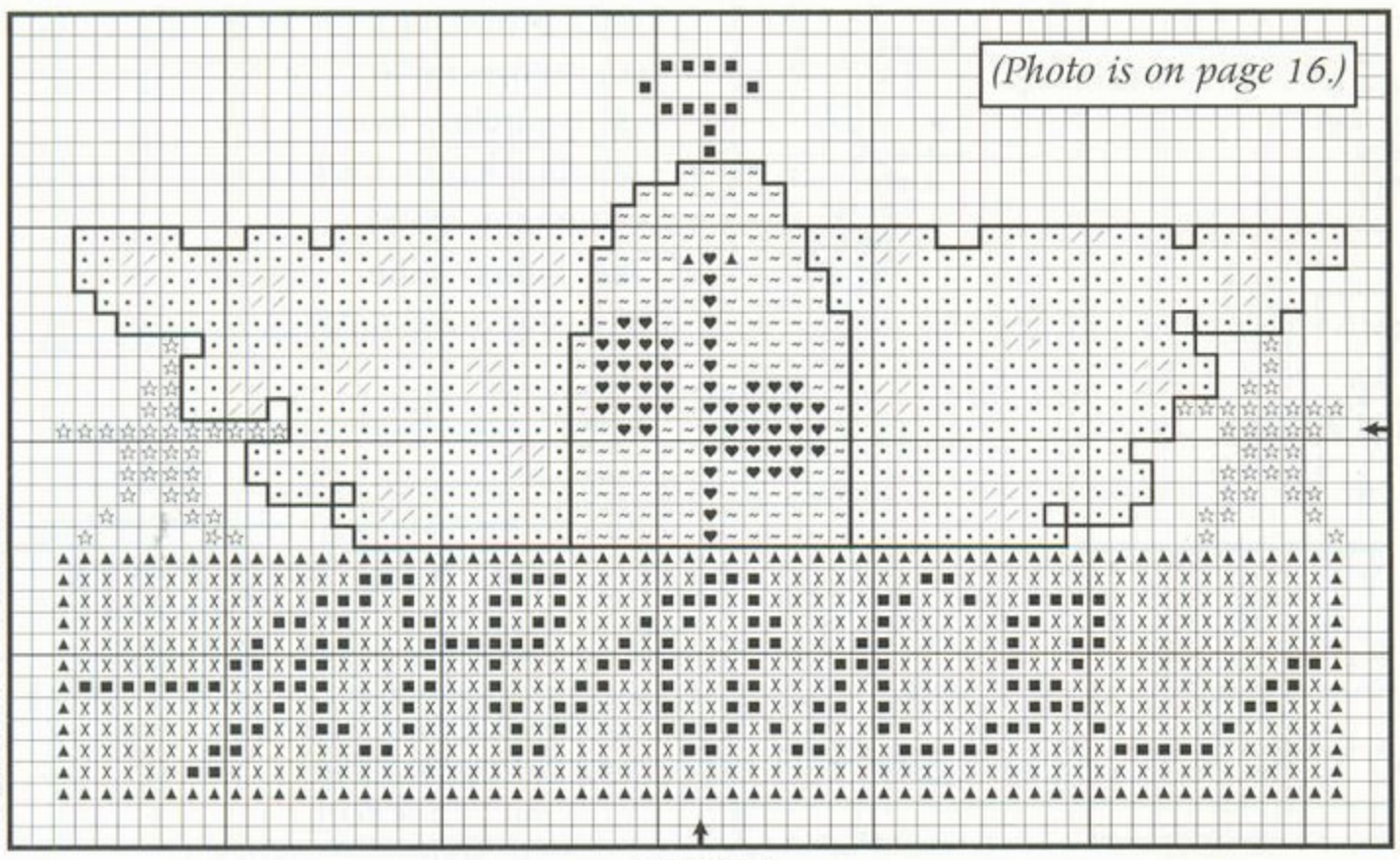
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Attach buttons below stitched area, using one strand Caribbean Waters. (**NOTE:** Refer to photo on page 16.)

Backstitch instructions:

Prickly Pear	head
Really Teally	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Hanger and backing fabric were made from Weeks Dye Works 1317HB eggplant wool.



©2004 Sisters & Best Friends

PEACE

The Stitching Company, Inc.

Susan Greening Davis

Have you ever had a year when things were so busy that you almost missed Christmas? I know that sounds unusual, especially for someone who loves Christmas, but it almost happened to me.

During the pre-Christmas season, I had battled pneumonia for a month. I was framing and finishing gifts for my customers nonstop. I hadn't had time to do the fruitcakes. No Christmas tree had been purchased—you get the picture.

The Saturday before Christmas, I went home, weary and worn-out from a hustle-bustle day in my business. I was confused that all of my curtains were closed to my living room. When I unlocked the door, there was Christmas music playing, a beautifully decorated tree, my "stockings were hung," and it looked like a wonderland. My family had come in and brought me Christmas. I will never forget that year.

Hot Crab Dip

8 oz. low-fat cream cheese, softened
½ c. light mayonnaise
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
¼ tsp. hot-pepper sauce
1 Tbsp. finely chopped onion
12 oz. lump crab meat
½ tsp. salt and freshly ground pepper
3 Tbsp. freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400°.

With a wooden spoon, mix cream cheese and mayonnaise in a large bowl until fluffy. Stir in lemon juice, pepper sauce, and onion. Fold in crabmeat, salt, and pepper. Spread in a 3-cup baking dish. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

Bake for 15–20 minutes, or until bubbly and golden brown. Serve warm with crackers. Serves 10.

HO-HO-HO-HO BOX

Designed by Susan Greening Davis of The Stitching Company, Inc.

Ginnie Thompson Flower Thread

X 427	blue-green
bs 296	bright red

Fabric: Six 3" x 3" pieces 25-count cream/gold Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 40H x 40W
Design size: 1 5/8" x 1 5/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of flower thread, unless otherwise indicated.

Backstitch over one thread, using one strand of flower thread, unless otherwise indicated.

Stitch design once on each piece of fabric. If desired, leave bottom square unstitched for personalization.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

296	lettering
427	remainder of backstitch (over two threads, using two strands of floss)

Finishing instructions: Trim excess fabric to within 1/4" of backstitched borders. Finger press seam allowances to back along backstitched borders. Using one strand 427 and keeping lettering on side pieces in same direction, lace pieces together through backstitching to form

box, leaving one small section open for stuffing. Stuff firmly with polyfill, then lace closed.

Hanger was made using 36" length of Kreinik® 003 1/8" Ribbon. Using a 2" running stitch and one strand 296, knotted at one end, stitch 14" of the ribbon along the side. Repeat on the other side. When the two pieces of floss are pulled, the ribbon will gather up into a bow with a hanger loop. Stitch together and sew to top of box.

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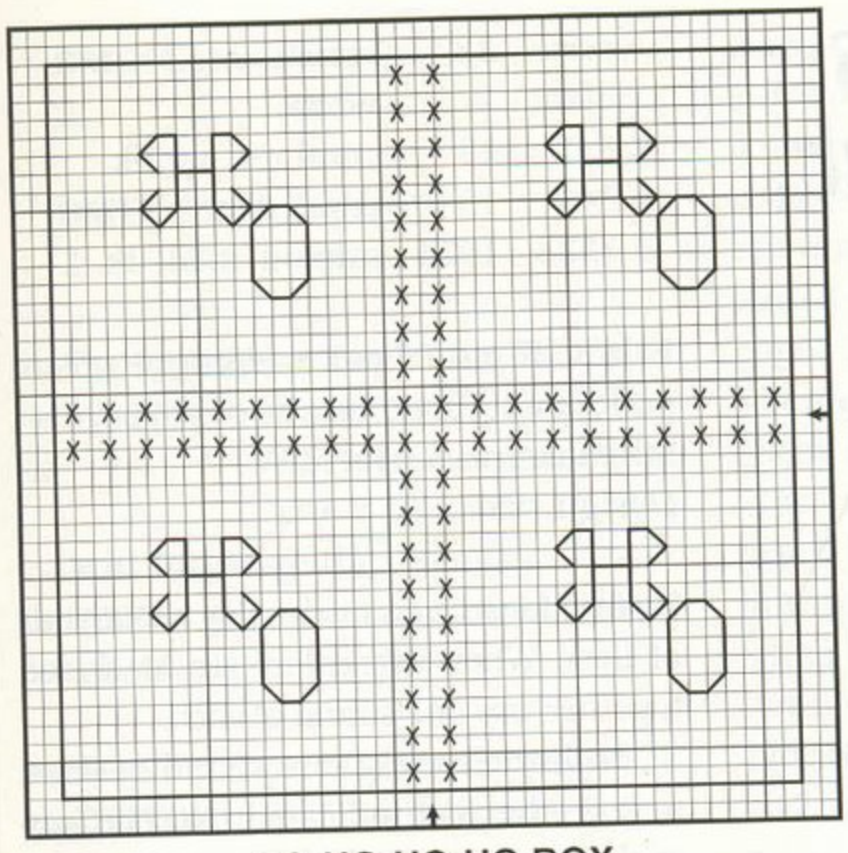

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HO-HO-HO-HO BOX

(Photo is on page 22.)

The Stitchworks, Ltd.

Cindy and David Morrill

Holidays give us the chance to gather with our family (our grandson, Cameron, is pictured with us) and friends to enjoy the season. With everyone watching calories around the holiday time, I always like to have this delicious light cake around. It's very quick to make, and everyone loves it.

Enjoy your family and friends this holiday and, with this ornament, remember the joy of Christ's birthday.

Pineapple Angel-Food Cake

1 pkg. angel-food cake mix
1 (20-oz.) can crushed pineapple
1 Tbsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°.

Lightly spray or grease a 13" x 9" pan. In a bowl, mix the angel-food cake mix, the pineapple (including the juice), and the vanilla. Stir until thoroughly mixed (it will foam a bit). Pour into the pan and bake for 40–45 minutes or until top is dark golden brown and not sticky. Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS CROSS

Designed by Cindy and David Morrill of The Stitchworks, Ltd.

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss•
. 2219 whiskey

Crescent Colours
Hand Dyed Floss
■ Bandana
X Spinach

Mill Hill Antique Glass Beads
○ 03003 antique cranberry

The Stitchworks, Ltd. Charms
◆ gold cross

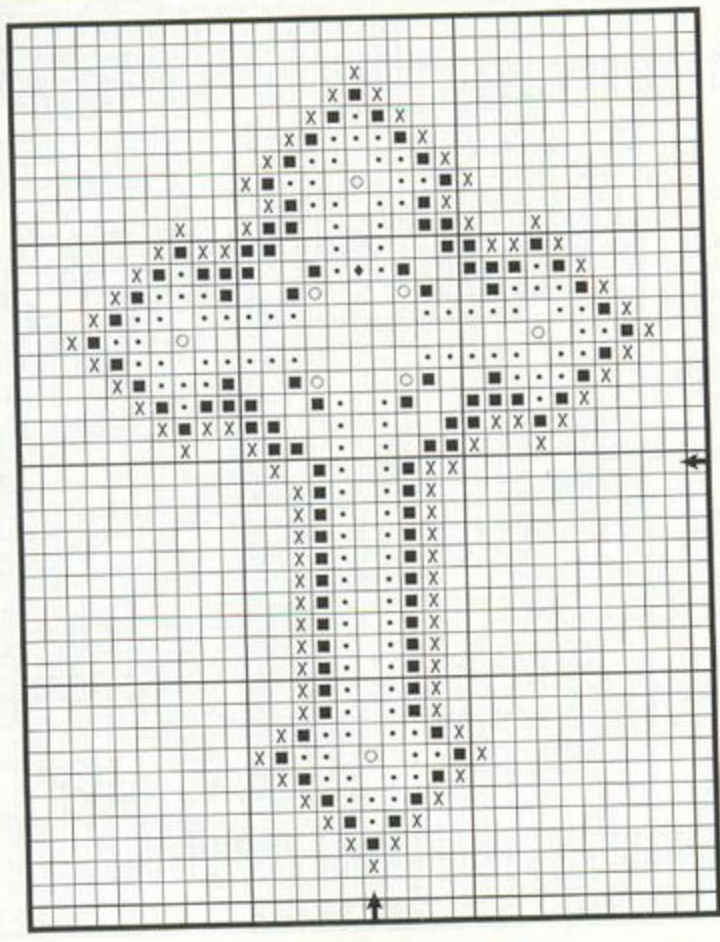
Fabric: 6" x 5" piece 28-count antique white Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 37H x 27W
Design size: 2 2/3" x 2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand Bandana and a cross stitch.

Attach charm, using one strand 2219.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using DMC® 815 and 729 Coton Perlé #5. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Bow was made using 1/4"-wide red grosgrain ribbon.



(Photo is on page 14.)

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CHRISTMAS CROSS

Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.

Sue Hillis

Iced Ginger Cookies

1 c. butter, softened
1 1/2 c. sugar
2 large eggs
1/4 c. molasses
3 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 tsp. ground ginger
1 1/2 c. Ocean Spray® Craisins®

Icing:
1 c. confectioners' sugar
2 Tbsp. water

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a medium bowl, beat butter and sugar at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy. Add eggs and molasses, beating until fluffy. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and ginger; gradually add to butter mixture, mixing well. Stir in craisins. Shape dough into 1" balls. Place on lightly greased baking sheets. Bake for 12 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Cool on wire racks.

In a small bowl, combine powdered sugar and water to create icing. Stir until smooth. Drizzle onto cooled cookies.

Makes 7 dozen cookies.

GINGERBREAD BOY

Designed by Sue Hillis of Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	3371	382	black-brown
◑	869	375	hazelnut, vy. dk.
X	420	374	hazelnut, dk.
☽	3828	373	hazelnut brown
○[	3828	373	hazelnut brown
	3712	1023	salmon, med.
/	ecru	387	ecru
.	blanc	2	white
♥	817	13	coral red, vy. dk.
✳	349	13	coral, dk.
3	3328	1024	salmon, med. dk.

Fabric: 5" x 4 1/2" piece 14-count cream perforated plastic canvas or paper
Stitch count: 53H x 50W
Design size: 3 7/8" x 3 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each.

Backstitch using one strand of floss, unless otherwise indicated. (**NOTE:** Gray outline indicates cutting line only and is not to be stitched.)

Backstitch instructions:

3371	382	bow tie and vest
blanc	2	mouth (two strands)

Finishing instructions: Trim along gray outline. Glue to papier-mâché gingerbread form (available at most craft stores).

(Photo is on page 29.)

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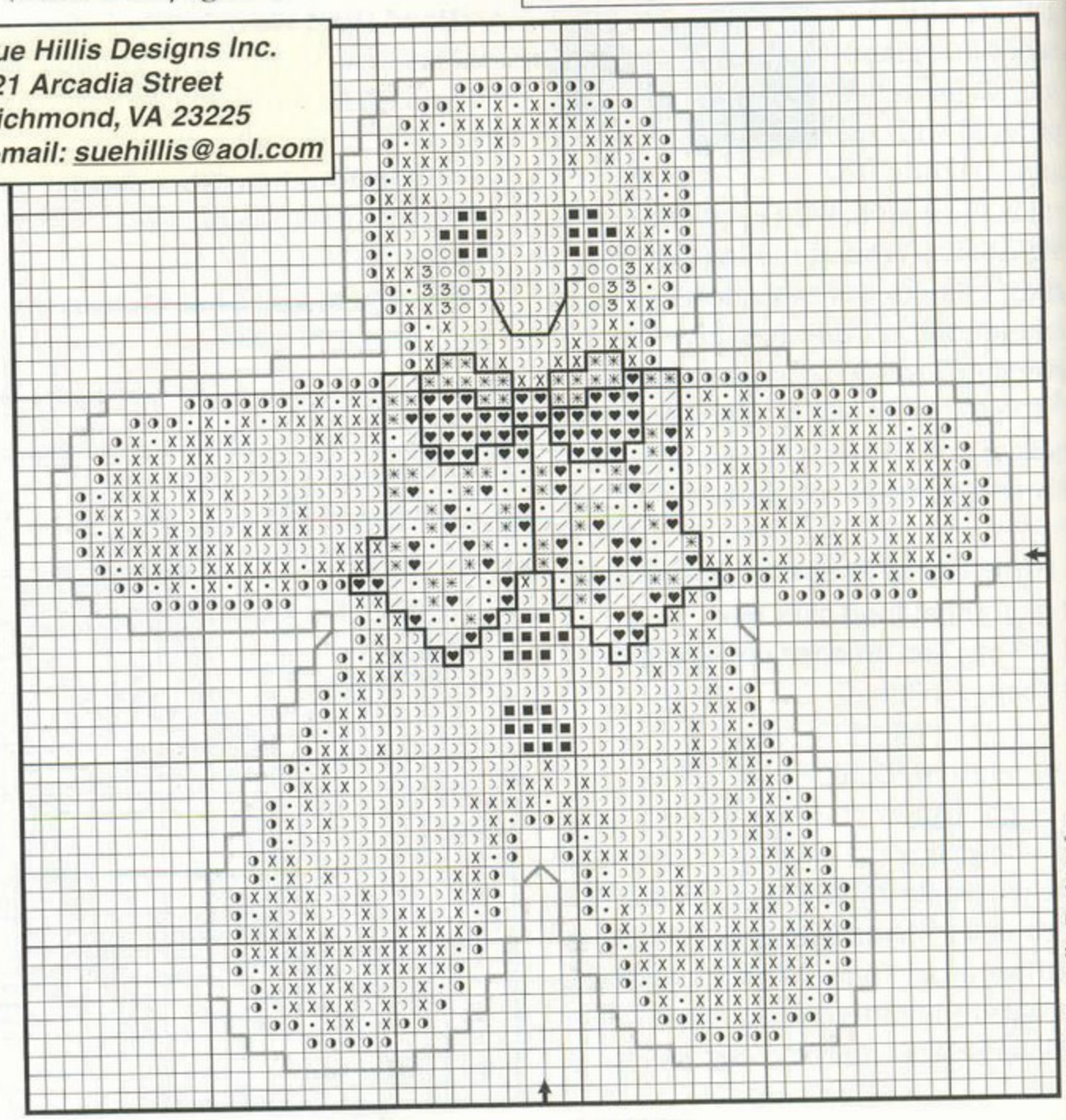

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GINGERBREAD BOY

The Sweetheart Tree™

Sandra Cox Vanosdall

When I first talked with Lorna last year about doing the ornament for 2004, I knew I'd have to "stay on the ball" because our year was going to be *very* full.

After designing this year's ornament, it was sent off to Rindy in Tennessee, who stitched this little gem for us in no time flat and sent it right back to the office in Arizona. From our office, it was entrusted to the U.S. Mail, and the ornament was off to Jan in South Dakota for the finishing work. But it didn't get there! Day after day passed, and each day brought the same phone call from Jan: "no ornament!" Jan

was in the process of moving from South Dakota to Wisconsin, and this was to be her last project for us until she arrived at her new home. What would happen if the ornament didn't arrive before the moving truck did?

Now, I'd like to keep you all in suspense but I just don't have the heart! The ornament arrived in South Dakota a full 38 days after its mailing and on the *exact* day that the movers were packing all of Jan's belongings into the moving van! Jan decided to take the ornament with her to her new home in Wisconsin, where Jan, being the wonderful person that she is, quickly finished the ornament into a bellpull and sent it on for photography. Believe me, we were all holding our breath to see how long it would take to get there this time!

In future years when I hang this on our tree, I'll remember Rindy and Jan and the story of the "traveling ornament."

MERRY CHRISTMAS BELLPULL ORNAMENT

Designed by Sandra Cox Vanosdall of The Sweetheart Tree™

DMC®	Anchor®	
ecru	387	ecru
500	683	blue-green, dk.

Weeks Dye Works™ Hand Over Dyed Floss

X	2153	cypress
bs	1339	bordeaux

DMC® Coton Perlé #8

2	ecru

DMC® Coton Perlé #12

2	ecru

The Sweetheart Tree™ Charms

★	SV-CP140	sterling silver holly leaf
△		crystal clear pailettes

Mill Hill Magnifica Beads

●	10033	antique cranberry
○	10042	vanilla

Fabric: 10" x 6" piece 32-count opalescent/raw Belfast® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 93H x 38W
Design size: $5^{7}/_{8}$" x $2^{3}/_{8}$"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands 2153.

Backstitch over two threads, using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated.

Work satin-stitch border and kloster blocks, using one strand of coton perlé #8.

Attach beads using one strand of matching floss and a cross stitch. Attach pailettes and charm, using one strand of coton perlé #12.

Special instructions:
Areas 2 and 3–Work Scotch stitch over four threads, using one strand of coton perlé #12.
Areas 5 and 7–Work diamond eyelet stitch over eight threads, using one strand of coton perlé #12.
Area 6–Work Rhodes-heart stitch over ten threads, using two strands 1339.
Area 8–Referring to stitch illustration on page 118, work four-trip North star stitch, pulling each leg to open hole in center of stitch and working each color as follows: blue lines using two strands 500/683; green lines using two strands 2153; red lines using two strands 1339; yellow lines using two strands ecru/387.
Area 9–Work eyelet stitch inside kloster blocks, using one strand of coton perlé #12 and pulling each leg slightly to open hole in center of stitch.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

1339		lettering, bottom line of Area 1, top line of Area 4, inner diamond of Area 8
ecru	387	middle line of Area 1, middle line of Area 4, middle diamond of Area 8
500	683	vines and tendrils (one strand), top line of Area 1, bottom line of Area 4, outer diamond of Area 8

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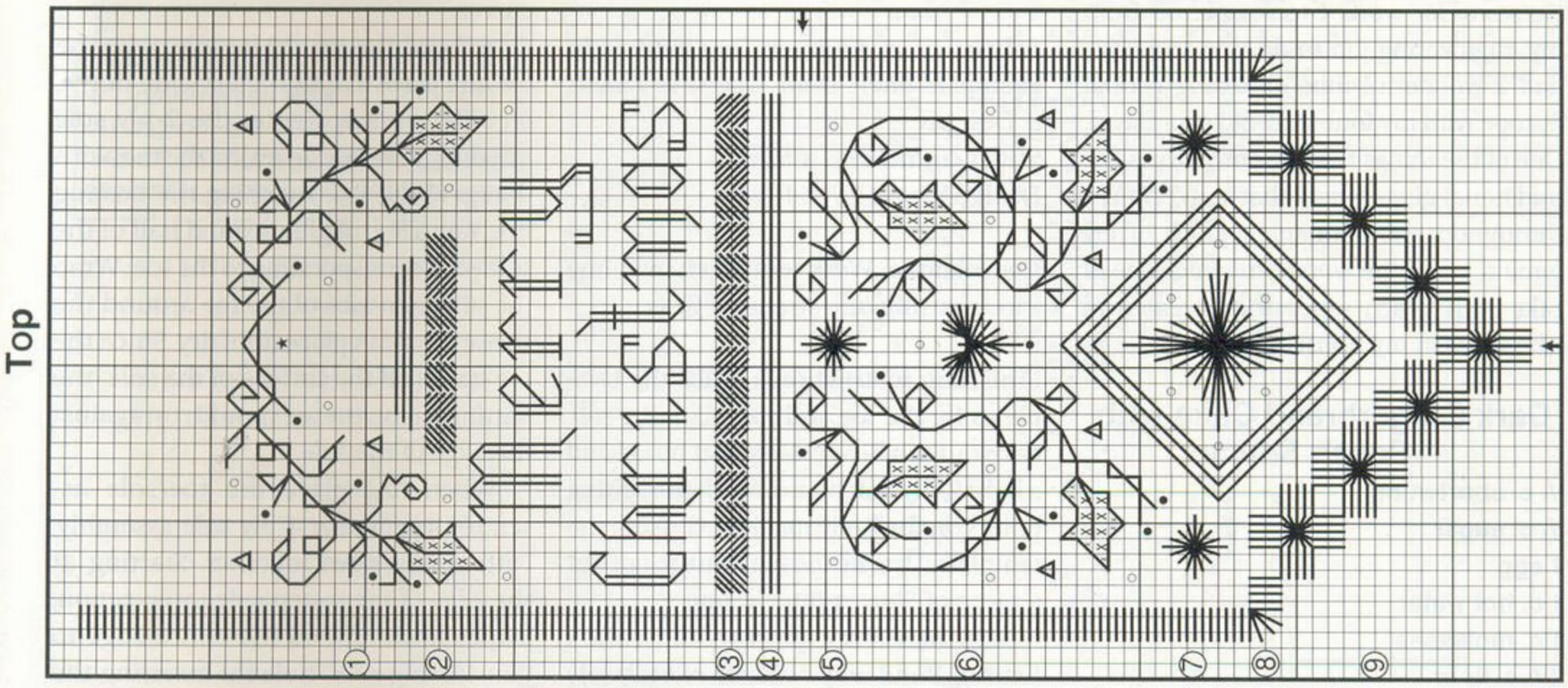


MERRY CHRISTMAS BELLPULL ORNAMENT

©2004 The Sweetheart Tree
©2004 Sue Hillis Designs, Inc.

Finishing instructions: Fold excess linen to back at sides and bottom 1/4" from stitched area; press. Cut a piece of backing fabric 1/4" larger than pressed stitched piece. Fold 3/8" to back at sides and bottom of backing fabric; press. Place stitched piece and backing with wrong sides together. Blind stitch backing to stitched piece. Fold top to back along top edge of stitched piece. Blind stitch in place to form a rod pocket. Insert bellpull hardware into rod pocket.

Twisted-cording trim and tassel were made using 2153. Twisted-cording directions appear on page 53. Tassel-making instructions appear on page 43.

(Photo is on page 24. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

Thistle Threads

Tricia Wilson Nguyen

Our family has spent the last year traveling back and forth from the US to Germany for work. I took time off from my engineering job to do this and have had a wonderful time exploring central Europe with my four-year-old son, David. One of the things that we both love is the traditional gingerbread that is so popular throughout the Germanic regions. They remind me of the wonderful gingerbread cake with peach sauce that is eaten at Christmas in my household.

Dark Gingerbread Cake with Peach Sauce

1/2 c. shortening
1/2 c. sugar
1 egg
1 c. hot water
1 c. molasses
2 1/2 c. flour
1 1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ginger
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350°.

In a mixing bowl, cream the shortening and sugar and then add the egg. In a separate bowl, mix together the hot water and molasses. Mix the dry ingredients together in a third bowl. Add the wet mixture and dry mixture alternately to the creamed one. Bake in a greased 8" x 8" x 2" pan for 50–60 minutes. Serve with generous amounts of peach sauce on top.

Peach Sauce:
2 (15-oz.) cans cling peaches in syrup
1 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 Tbsp. butter
Squeeze of lemon juice

Drain peaches, reserving 1 cup syrup. Combine syrup, brown sugar, cornstarch, and butter in a medium saucepan; stir. Bring to boil on stovetop and cook until thick, stirring often. Add peach slices and lemon juice.

A TINY GERMAN FOLK SLIPPER

Designed by Tricia Wilson Nguyen of Thistle Threads

Au Ver A Soie®
Soie 100/3
■ 681 red, dk.

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 36-count light examplar linen from Lakeside Linens & Designs
Stitch count: 67H x 53W
Design size: 1 7/8" x 1 1/2"

Instructions: Work tent stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions: Trace the templates for the toe and sole. Cut one sole each out of a heavy 4-ply mat board and a light 2-ply mat board. Mark the tufting points on the 2-ply mat board, using the template. Use the toe template to cut out a piece of Skirtex interfacing.

Cut three 3" x 7" pieces of thin cotton batting. Bond only one side of each sole form to a batt using a very light layer of glue. After drying, trim the excess batt up to the edge of the sole. Bond a second layer of batting onto the batt side of the 2-ply mat-board sole. This makes a double layer. Trim the excess batt.

Use the silk-cutting sole template to cut out two soles from silk lining fabric. Place each silk sole wrong-side up on the table and then lay the batt side of a sole form on top of the silk. Using a very thin layer of glue or spray adhesive on the cardboard, wrap and bond the silk edge to the cardboard, smoothing the curves with your finger. Let dry.

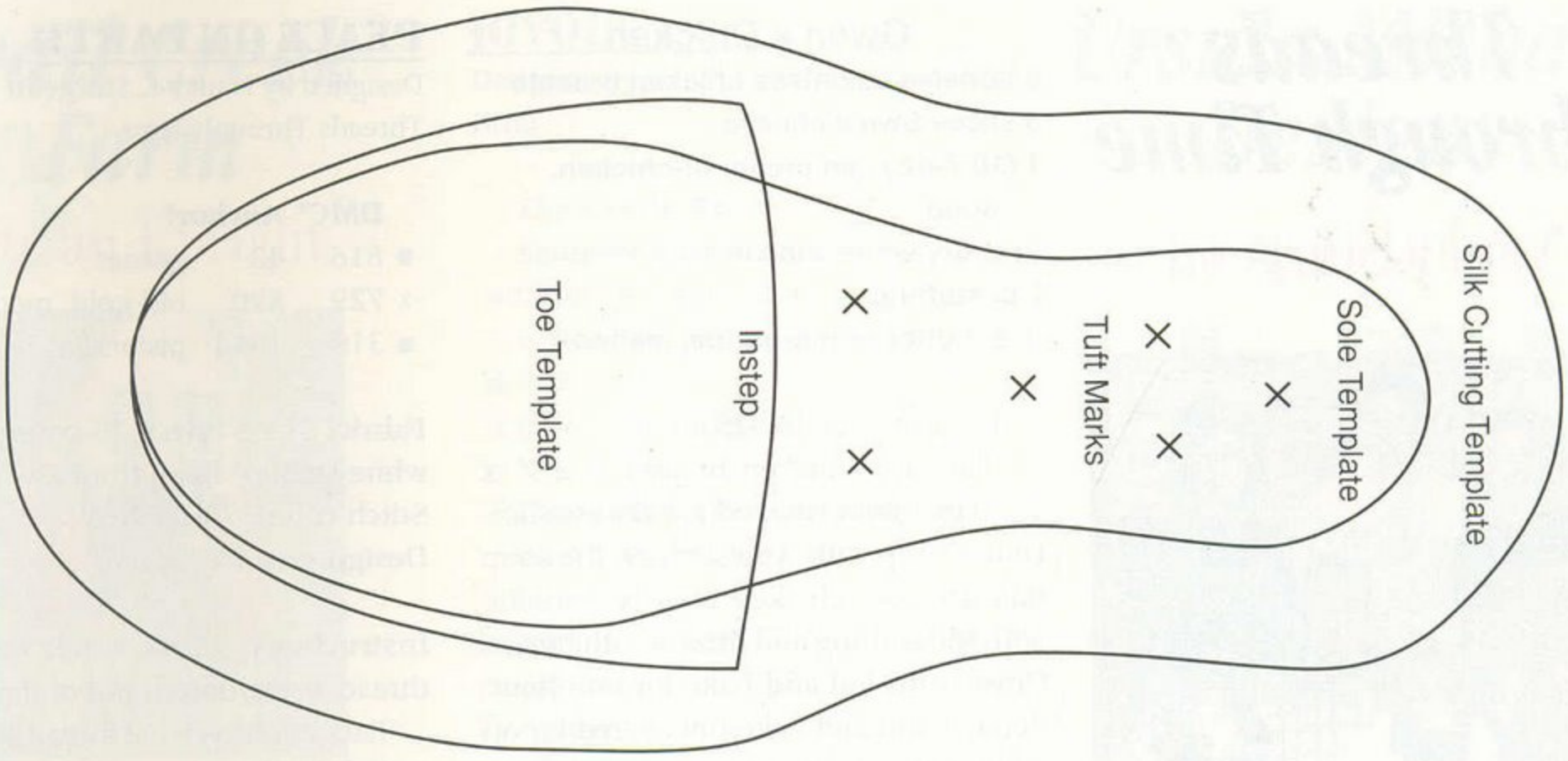
Take the silk-wrapped 2-ply matt form and cross-stitch tufts through the entire cardboard/batt/silk assembly at the premarked spots, using one strand of floss. Set soles aside.

Using the Skirtex toe, center the Skirtex on the back of the stitched piece. Once centered, use a pencil to trace around the Skirtex. Place the linen and a 4" x 4" piece of silk lining with right sides together; sew along the top curve of the toe (instep edge). Trim this allowance to 1/4"; open and press the seam toward the silk. With the assembly turned right-side up, topstitch next to the seam on the silk side, catching the seam allowance with the stitching.

Place the Skirtex toe inside the silk/linen assembly; center and pin. Hand-baste around the raw edge of the silk/linen sandwich right up against the Skirtex edge. Trim around the toe 1/2" away from the basting line; notch the curves.

To bond the toe to the sole, take the toe and place it, embroidery-side down, on a flat surface. Center the 2-ply sole assembly, silk-side down, on the toe, with the tip of the sole touching the basting line. Run a line of glue around half of the sole edge corresponding to the toe. Wrap the silk/linen tabs of the toe around the sole and hold in place until dry. Since the toe stands off the surface of the sole, the basting line on the toe should run against the edge of the sole.

When dry, place the toe/sole assembly against the 4-ply sole assembly, with wrong sides together. Starting at the edge of the instep/sole intersection, ladder stitch around the entire edge to join, leaving a 1/4" hole for inserting the raw end of the twisted cord.



Make a detached-buttonhole loop on the back of the slipper near the top for a hanger. Twisted-cording trim and hanger on back of sole were made using 681. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Color pictures of the slipper being finished are available for viewing on the Thistle Threads website.

(Photo is on page 18. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

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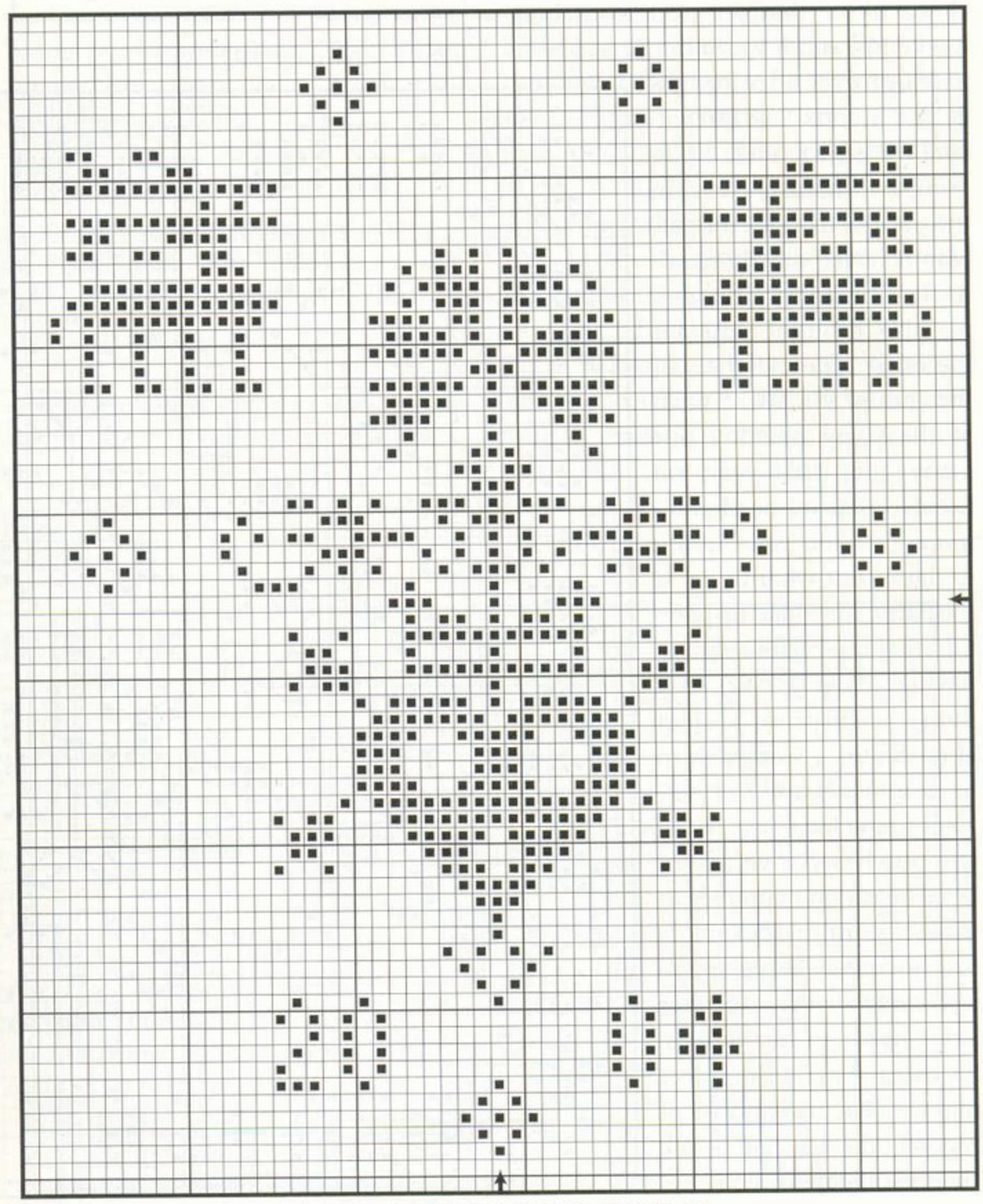

©2004 Thistle Threads

A TINY GERMAN FOLK SLIPPER

Threads Through Time

Nancy Sturgeon

Many years ago, my friend Gwen brought this dish up to the lake to serve at one of our sampler group's stitching weekends, and it was a hit. I have been making it ever since for family and friends. Last December I served it at our sampler group's Christmas party. In the past we had secret pals who received mostly handmade Christmas gifts, and we also brought gifts for the other nine members of the group. We spent most of the party opening our many gifts. Last year, we decided that we needed no more gifts and were trying to figure out what to do at the party. We ended up playing stitching-related games, having a lovely meal, and doing a surprise project after dinner. I wanted it to be non-messy and fast, so I went to the local bead shop and purchased a variety of large beads and supplies to make a beautiful scissor fob. Each member also personalized her fob with two pewter letter beads of her initials. It was a fun and fast project that we all actually finished! A good time was had by all. Happy holidays to you!

Gwen's Chicken

8 boneless skinless chicken breasts
8 slices Swiss cheese
1 (10.7-oz.) can cream-of-chicken soup
¼ c. dry white wine
2 c. stuffing
½ c. butter or margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 325°.

Place the chicken breasts in a 9" x 13" pan. Cover each with a cheese slice. Dilute soup with wine; drizzle the soup mixture over chicken breasts. Sprinkle with the stuffing and drizzle with butter. Cover with foil and bake for one hour. Remove foil and bake uncovered for an additional 30 minutes.

Threads Through Time
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Napierville, IL 60540-7001
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(Photo is on page 19.)

PEACE ON EARTH

Designed by Nancy L. Sturgeon of Threads Through Time

	DMC®	Anchor®	
♥	816	43	garnet
X	729	890	old gold, med.
■	319	1044	pistachio, vy. dk.

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 25-count antique white Dublin® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 70H x 70W
Design size: 2⅞" x 2⅞"

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch over one thread, using one strand 319/1044.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 816/43 and 319/1044. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

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PEACE ON EARTH

Trail Creek Farm

Susan Ebright

This is one of my favorite Christmas pictures of my children, taken in front of Santa's house on our courthouse square. From left to right are Emily, Ryan, and Sally. Webster's defines *joyous* as "experiencing, causing, or showing joy." I want to wish you and your families a "joyous" holiday from Trail Creek Farm!

Candy-Bar Cookies

1 (14-oz.) pkg. vanilla caramels
2/3 c. light cream, divided
1 pkg. German-chocolate cake mix
1/4 c. butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla
1 (16-oz.) can whole berry cranberry sauce
1/2 c. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350°.

In saucepan, melt caramels in 1/3 cup cream until smooth. Set aside. In mixing bowl, combine cake mix, remaining cream, melted butter, and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Pat half of mixture in bottom of greased 13" x 9" x 2" pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Remove from oven. Spread with warm caramel mix. Stir cranberry sauce and spoon over caramel layer. Dot with remaining cake mix. Sprinkle on pecans. Bake for an additional 30 minutes. Cool, cut, and serve.

Trail Creek Farm
1355 15th Road
Lyons, KS 67554
e-mail: susan@trailcreekfarm.com
website: www.trailcreekfarm.com

JOYOUS

Designed by Susan Ebright of Trail Creek Farm

The Gentle Art
Sampler Threads
✳ 0390 buckeye scarlet
. 0780 hibiscus
■ 0120 pine
X 0180 spring grass

Just Another Button Company™
3369.L apple green star

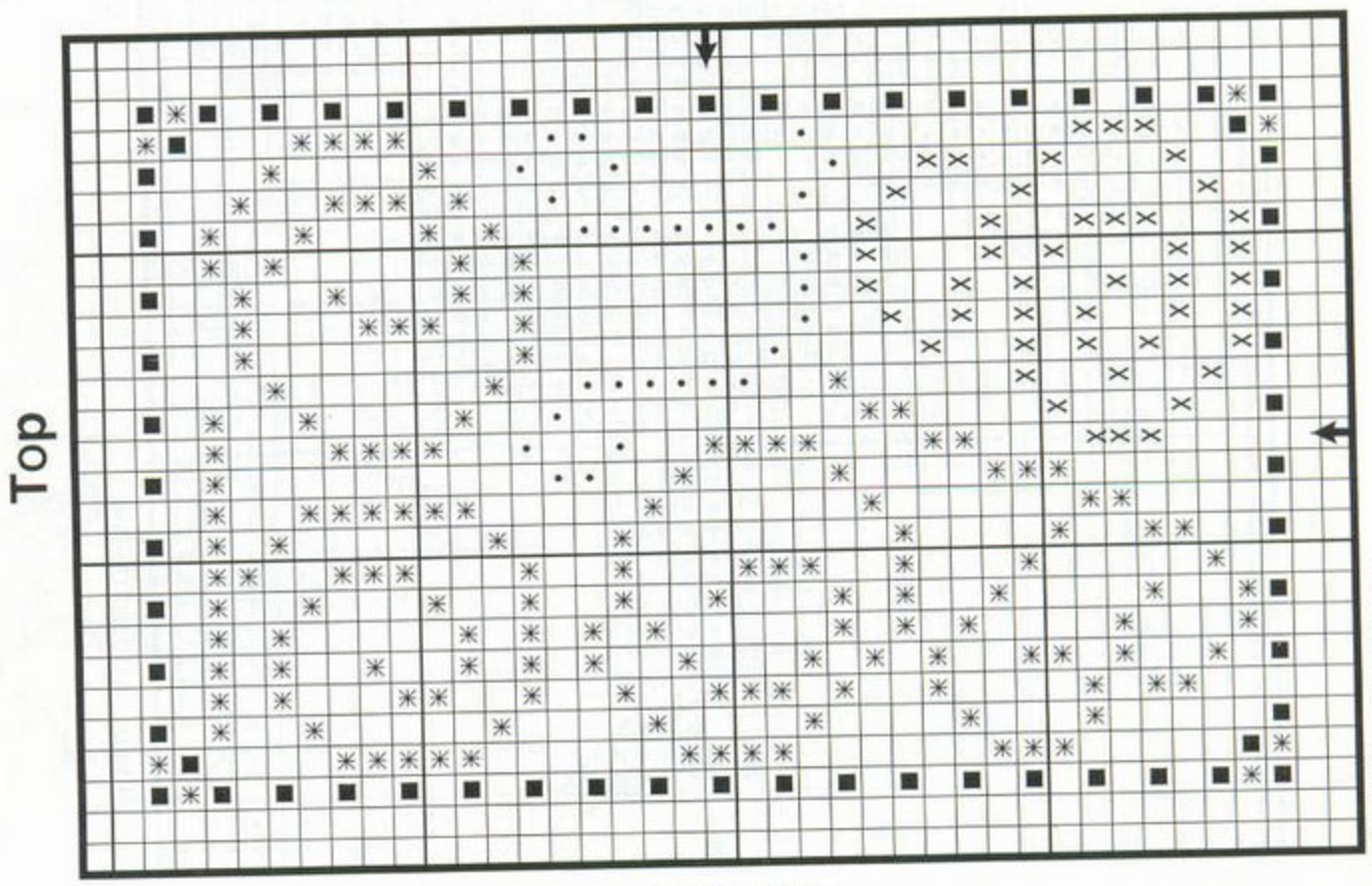
Fabric: 6" length 2"-wide 30-count cream Stitchband® (7271-003) from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 37H x 23W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 1 1/2"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Attach button above stitched area, using two strands 0180. (**NOTE:** Refer to photo on page 10 for button placement.)

Finishing instructions: Ends of stitchband were turned under and attached to Trail Creek Farm JCS05 Tree Ornament pillow, complete with buttons, bow, and hanger.

(Photo is on page 10.)



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Ursula Michael Designs

Ursula Michael

My husband makes the best pancakes. Every holiday morning and some special Sundays, he whips out the spoons and bowls, flour and eggs, and turns the kitchen into his workshop. There is no surface untouched by flour dust and used-one-time utensils. For years, our family and friends have enjoyed his lovely, lightly browned and made-to-perfection pancakes, topped with real maple syrup, blueberries, and crowned with sweet whipped cream. What makes the pancakes so very special is his "secret" ingredient: chocolate chips! It's like eating dessert for breakfast.

How simple it is to make the little things special in our daily lives! A warm hug, a smile, a hand-made gift...or a handful of chocolate chips.

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CAT IN WINDOW

Designed by Ursula Michael of Ursula Michael Designs

	DMC®	Anchor®	
■	310	403	black
.	blanc	2	white
▲	895	1044	green, dk.
X	702	226	kelly green

	Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4	
✳	003HL	red, hi lustre
☆	041	confetti pink

Fabric: 8" x 7" piece 28-count little boy blue Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 59H x 41W
Design size: 4¼" x 3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch instructions:

310	403	cat
blanc	2	bow
041		remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using blanc/2, 702/226, and 003HL. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Ursula Michael Designs
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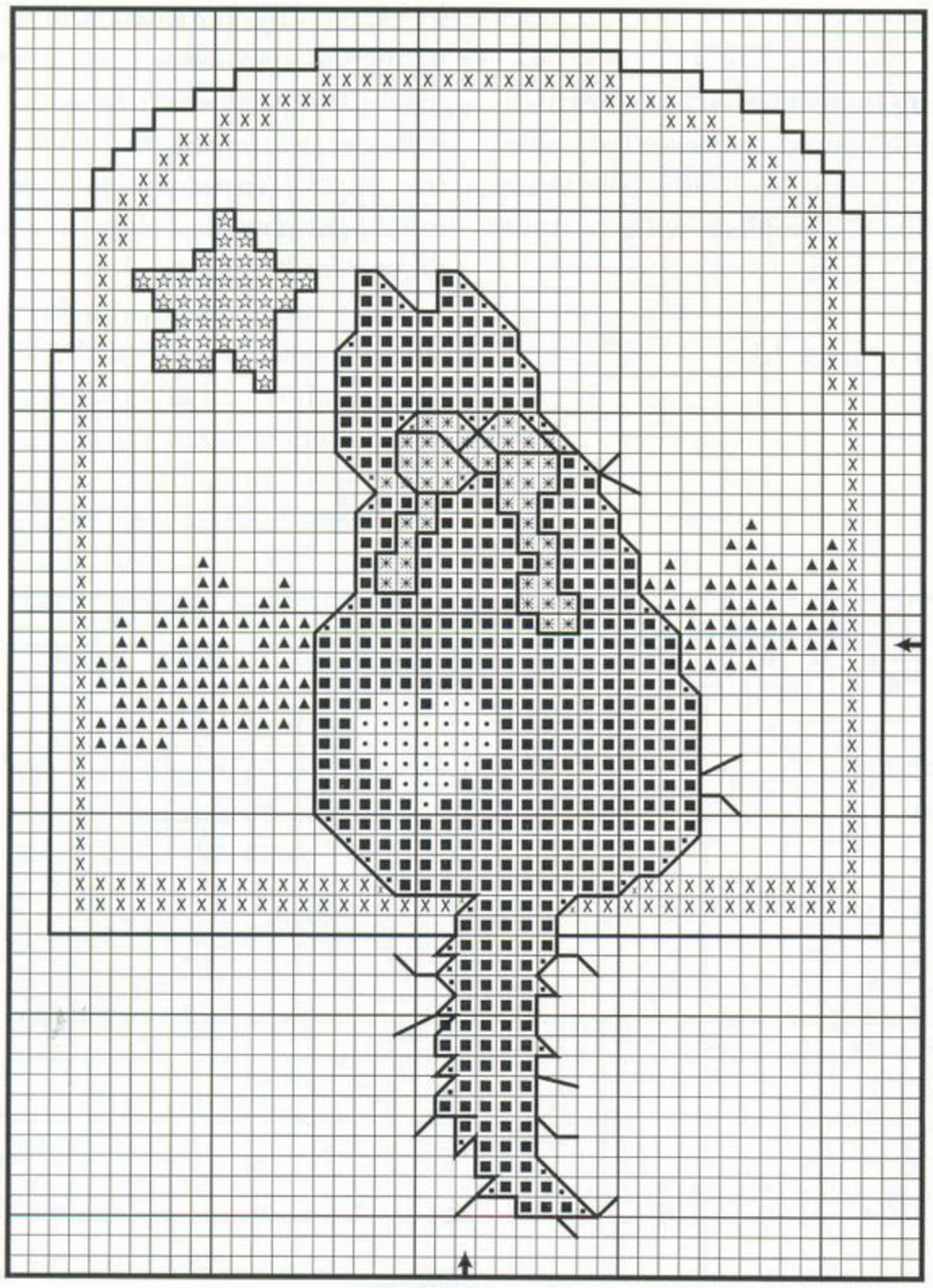
Jamestown, RI 02835
e-mail: ursula@ursulamichael.com
website: www.ursulamichael.com

(Photo is on page 11.)



©2004 Ursula Michael Designs

CAT IN WINDOW

The Vermillion Stitchery

Donna Vermillion Giampa

Christmas is for children and grandparents, too!

My most recent Christmas memories are very special because my husband, our three grown sons, and I all traveled from California to Texas to spend the holidays with my daughter, her husband, and our only grandchild, Macy, who was twenty months old. Macy's other grandparents also came from California, and we all realized what Christmas is all about.

Of course, Macy had no idea what Christmas was about quite yet, so we all enjoyed her lovely innocent amazement at not only having a Christmas tree and mounds of presents in her living room, but a captive audience of grandparents and uncles to share this special day. She pretty much ignored the presents, delighting more in a special carousel that played Christmas carols on her command.

Opening her presents was quite a challenge. She had to be persistent and keep at it! It was such fun to see her slowly remove the paper and, as she saw what was inside, excitedly announce, "Oh—how cool!" She then proceeded to study the gift, having to be prompted to go to the next one. Her favorite gift was a pink piggy bank, which she endlessly filled and emptied with her pennies.

Having spent every single Christmas of my life in California, I discovered that it doesn't matter where you spend the day—only that you are able to be with the people that mean the most to you.

The Vermillion Stitchery
23232 Peralta, Suite 217
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
e-mail: dgiampa@cox.net
website: www.vsccs.com

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

Designed by Donna Vermillion Giampa of The Vermillion Stitchery

	DMC®	Anchor®	
.	blanc	2	white
■	814	45	garnet, dk.
♥	498	1005	red, dk.
◑	321	47	red
R	666	46	red, brt.
△	892	33	carnation, med.
B	931	1034	antique blue, med.
3	3712	1023	salmon, med.
♡	760	1022	salmon
+	761	1021	salmon, lt.
@	640	393	beige-gray, vy. dk.
¢	642	392	beige-gray, dk.
«	644	391	beige-gray, med.
|	822	390	beige-gray, lt.
◆	919	340	red copper
X	758	9575	terra-cotta, lt.
○	754	1012	peach flesh, lt.
ℓ	948	1011	peach flesh, vy. lt.
/	3770	1009	flesh, ul. vy. lt.
●	938	381	coffee, ul. dk.
b	840	1084	beige-brown, med.
~	712	926	cream
▲	895	1044	green, dk.
✳	3345	268	hunter, dk.
$	3346	267	hunter
⩗	3347	266	yellow-green, med.
◊	3348	264	yellow-green, lt.
☽	369	1043	pistachio, vy. lt.
★	5282	–	metallic gold, lt.
bs	434	310	brown, lt.

Fabric: 8" x 8" piece 32-count mocha Lugana from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 65H x 65W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 4 1/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Backstitch over two threads, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

895	1044	holly leaves, *A Joyful*
814	45	red part of hat, *C*
321	47	remainder of lettering, year
640	393	remainder of hat, hair
938	381	eyelids
434	310	under eyes, nose
5282		remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Hanger was made using 1/8"-wide red ribbon.

(Photo is on page 22.)

©2004 The Vermillion Stitchery

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

The Victoria Sampler

Thea Dueck

For a taste of the decadent this Christmas, try this rich, spicy Dutch apple cake. It is so delicious it melts in your mouth! My aunt Agnes, who was considered the best in a family of great cooks, perfected this recipe. It's the kind of cake that looks a bit like a tall pie, with a lattice crust brushed with egg white and baked to a golden brown.

Thea's Dutch Apple Cake

2 c. flour
½ lb. butter
½ c. sugar
¾ tsp. lemon peel
2 tsp. baking powder
1 egg separated

Filling:
5-6 tart apples, peeled and sliced
2 Tbsp. brown sugar
¼ c. raisins
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 Tbsp. flour

Preheat oven to 375°.

In a mixing bowl, combine first five ingredients together with egg yolk; knead, and then divide dough in half. Roll out each half. Cut out 8½" round circle and lay on bottom of an 8"-round springform pan or other baking tin, with excess laid up sides. Mix filling ingredients together and pour on top of dough in pan. Cut remaining flattened dough into ½" wide strips, and lay on top of apple filling in a woven pattern. Brush beaten egg white over lattice dough and bake for 1 hour.

CARDINAL SNOWFLAKE

Designed by Thea Dueck of The Victoria Sampler

Kreinik® Very Fine Braid #4

✳	002	gold

Kreinik® Silk Mori®

◑	1117	Christmas red, vy. dk.
•	8000	soft white
■	8050	black
	4046	teal, dk.

Au Ver A Soie®
Soie Perlée®

	creme	cream

Fabric: 6" x 6" piece 28-count Amsterdam blue Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 32H x 32W
Design size: 2⅜" x 2⅜"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid.

Work satin stitch for black lines of border, using two strands Soie Perlée®.

Work four-sided stitch where gray lines appear, using one strand 8000 and pulling each leg to open holes in fabric.

Work straight stitch for stems of musical notes, using one strand of very fine braid.

Work straight stitch for pine bough and needles, using two strands 4046.

Work French knot where ● appears, using two strands 1117 and wrapping floss around needle once.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using Soie Perlée. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

(Photo is on page 21. Stitch illustrations begin on page 116.)

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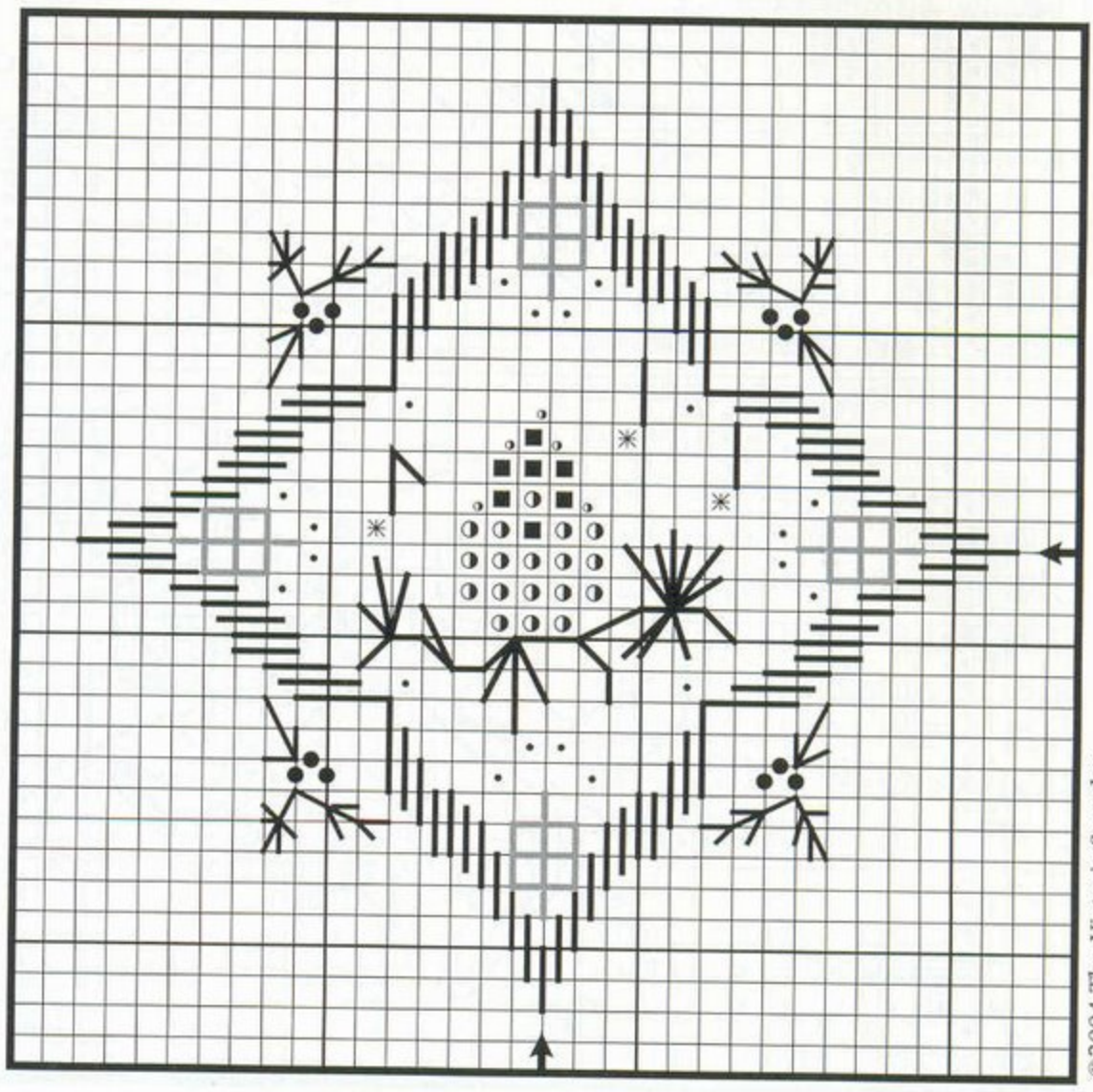

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CARDINAL SNOWFLAKE

Water's Edge

Bobbie Marek

Sausage Bread

1 pkg. active dry yeast
1/2 c. sugar
1 tsp. salt
2 c. hot water (hot tap water is fine)
5 eggs
7 c. all-purpose flour
3 heaping Tbsp. vegetable shortening
2 lbs. hot ground sausage
4 c. Mozzarella cheese
Butter

In a mixing bowl, dissolve first three ingredients in hot water. Stir in 1 egg until well blended. Allow mixture to sit for 20 minutes for yeast to work. Stir in 4 cups flour. Melt vegetable shortening and stir into flour mixture. Knead in up to 3 cups flour until dough is elastic. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise for 1 hour.

While dough is rising, preheat oven to 350°. Brown 2 pounds sausage and drain well. In a bowl, beat 4 eggs. Add shredded mozzarella; stir.

After dough rises, divide into three pieces. On floured board, roll out into a rectangle. Spread a third of sausage mixture on top of dough, avoiding edges. Starting at short end, roll up dough (like a jelly roll). Smooth ends to connect roll into a round. Repeat for remaining dough and sausage mixture. Allow to rise (seam-side down) for 45–60 minutes.

Bake for 20 minutes or until golden. Brush with butter.

O CHRISTMAS TREE

Designed by Bobbie Marek of Water's Edge

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss®
X 2158 juniper
■ 2239 terra cotta

Mill Hill Glass Treasure
★ 12167 small yellow star

Mill Hill Magnifica Beads
10036 Victorian gold

Fabric: 6 1/2" x 5" piece 28-count opalescent/white Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 48H x 23W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 1 2/3"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

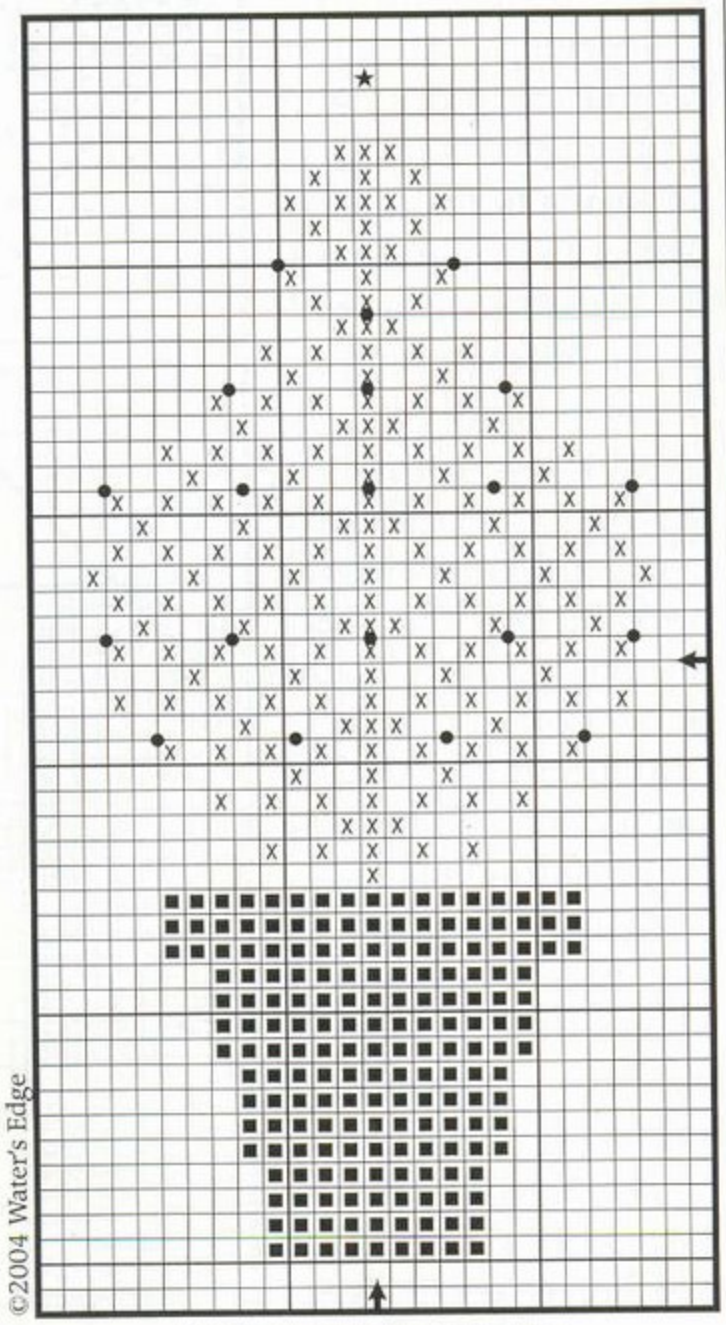
Attach treasure, using one strand matching thread and one bead.

String garland, starting at top of tree and going in and out where indicated by ●, using seven beads for top two sections of garland and ten beads for each section thereafter.

Attach small bow of 1/8"-wide gold ribbon to upper center of flowerpot. (**NOTE:** Refer to photo on page 10 for bow placement.)

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 119. Twisted-cording trim was made using white pearl cotton #8 and green and gold metallic braid. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53. Bow was made using metallic-gold rattail cording.

(Photo is on page 10.)



O CHRISTMAS TREE

Water's Edge
700 Monticello Drive
Fort Mill, SC 29708
e-mail: waters_edge@comporium.net

With My Needle

Ellen Chester

This recipe from my mother has been a family favorite for years. It is also often requested at group gatherings. Even most non-spinach lovers will like it. Enjoy!

New Orleans Spinach

2 (10-oz.) pkgs. frozen chopped spinach
1 (8-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
1 stick butter or margarine
Juice of 1/2 lemon
Pinch of ground nutmeg (optional)
Salt and cayenne pepper to taste
1 c. Pepperidge Farm® herb dressing

Cook the spinach according to the package directions. Drain well. While still hot, add cream cheese and 1/2 stick of butter. (I often put the spinach back in the pot over a low heat to help melt the cream cheese and butter.) Mix well until the cream cheese and butter melt. Add the lemon and seasonings. Pour the mixture into a buttered casserole dish and sprinkle the herb dressing on top. Melt the remaining 1/2 stick of butter and drizzle over the top of the dressing. Bake uncovered at 350° for 30 minutes. (**Tip**: I often prepare this the day before serving. If doing so, wait and add the dressing and melted butter before baking).

CHRISTMAS SWAN NEEDLEBOOK

Designed by Ellen Chester of
With My Needle

Weeks Dye Works™
Hand Over Dyed Floss
- 3860 crimson (two skeins)

Fabric: Two 6½" x 6½" pieces 32-count light mocha Belfast® linen from Zweigart® (**NOTE:** This is the second of a series of ornaments. If you plan on stitching the entire series, please buy a 31" x 15" piece of linen and 12 skeins of floss, so pieces will match.)
Stitch count: 39H x 39W
Design size: 2½" x 2½"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch border over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Personalize back piece as desired. (**NOTE:** Gray line at bottom of back piece indicates placement of personalization only and is not to be stitched.)

Finishing instructions: Trim the excess linen ½" from the backstitched border on both stitched pieces.

Cut two pieces of heavyweight interfacing the same size as Template 1. Cut two pieces of cotton lining fabric ½" larger on all sides than Template 1. Lay one piece of interfacing on the back side of a piece of lining fabric and fold the extra fabric to the back. Using sewing thread, baste the two layers together, making sure the folded edges are neat and smooth. This is now a lining assembly for the needlebook. Make a second lining assembly from the remaining interfacing and lining fabric.

Cut two pieces of heavyweight interfacing and two pieces of batting using Template 2. Align first a piece of batting and then a piece of interfacing on the wrong side of one of the stitched pieces. Fold the extra linen to the back along the backstitched border. If necessary, trim the interfacing. Using sewing thread, baste the three pieces together, making sure the folded edges fall on the backstitched line. Repeat this process for the other stitched piece.

Using the backstitched outline as a guide, attach the front stitched piece to one of the lining assemblies, using embroidery thread; leave the top edge completely open and leave a ¼" opening in the center of the bottom edge. Repeat this process for the other stitched piece and lining assembly. Remove all basting threads.

To make a hinge for the needlebook using a 2"-long piece of 12mm-wide ribbon, insert the ends of the ribbon into the top openings and the front and back sides of the needlebook, leaving about ⅜" of ribbon visible between the front and back pieces. Pin in place. Close the openings, stitching through the ribbon to secure.

Make two pieces of twisted cord, each made from three 30"-long pieces of six-strand 3860. Attach a twisted cord to the edges of each needlebook piece, using matching sewing thread. Start by inserting one end of the cord in the ¼" opening and begin attaching the cord, working around the perimeter. When the starting point is reached, overlap the tails of the cord, hide the ends in the opening, and sew the opening closed.

Attach a small button or bead at the bottom edge of the needlebook back. Make a detached-buttonhole loop on the bottom edge of the front to fit the button. Attach a small ribbon bow on top of the buttonhole loop.

Using Template 3, cut two needlepages from doctor's flannel or thin wool, using pinking shears. Cut two pieces of 4mm-wide ribbon, each 4" long. Center the needlepage on the front lining and attach the ribbon to the needlepage and the lining at the top center of the needlepage. Tie a bow with the ribbon and trim the ends, if desired.

If hanging the needlebook as an ornament, make a hanger using a 12" length of the 7mm ribbon. Tie the hanger onto the needlebook hinge.

Finished by Jackie du Plessis,
It's Fine-ally Finished

(Photo is on page 24.)

With My Needle
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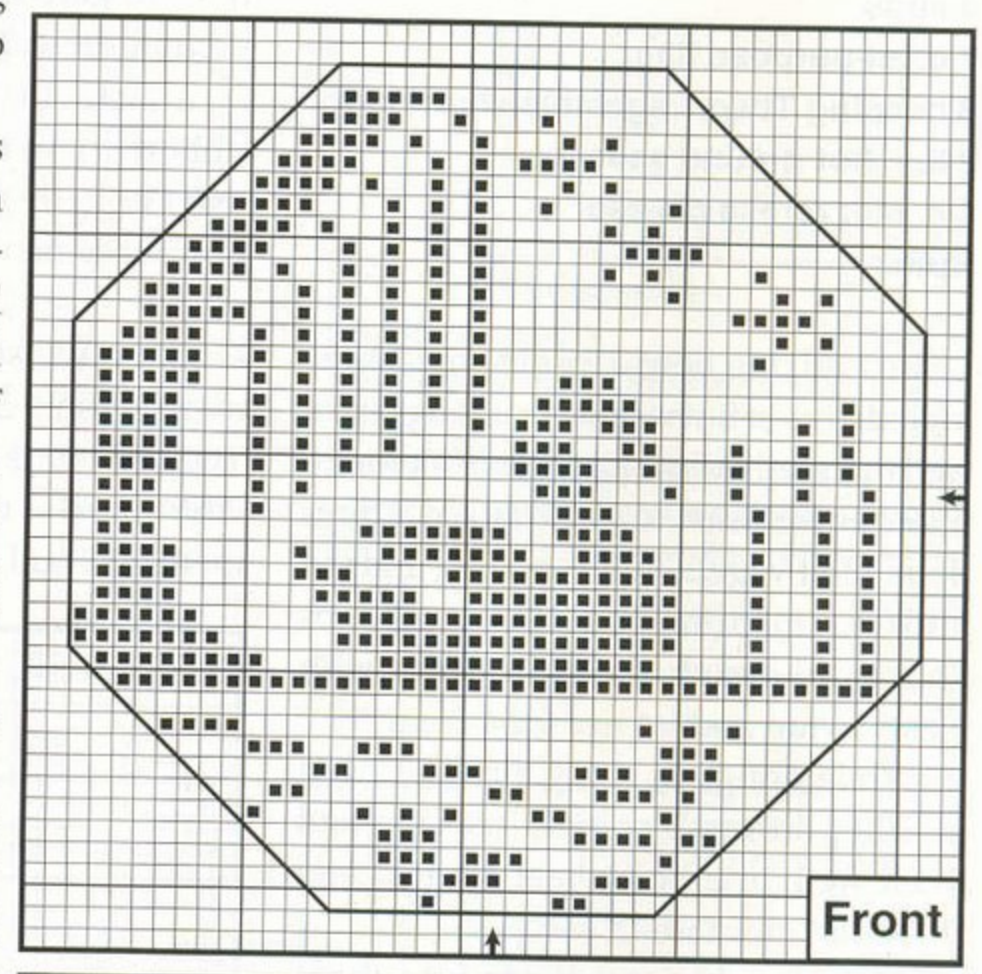

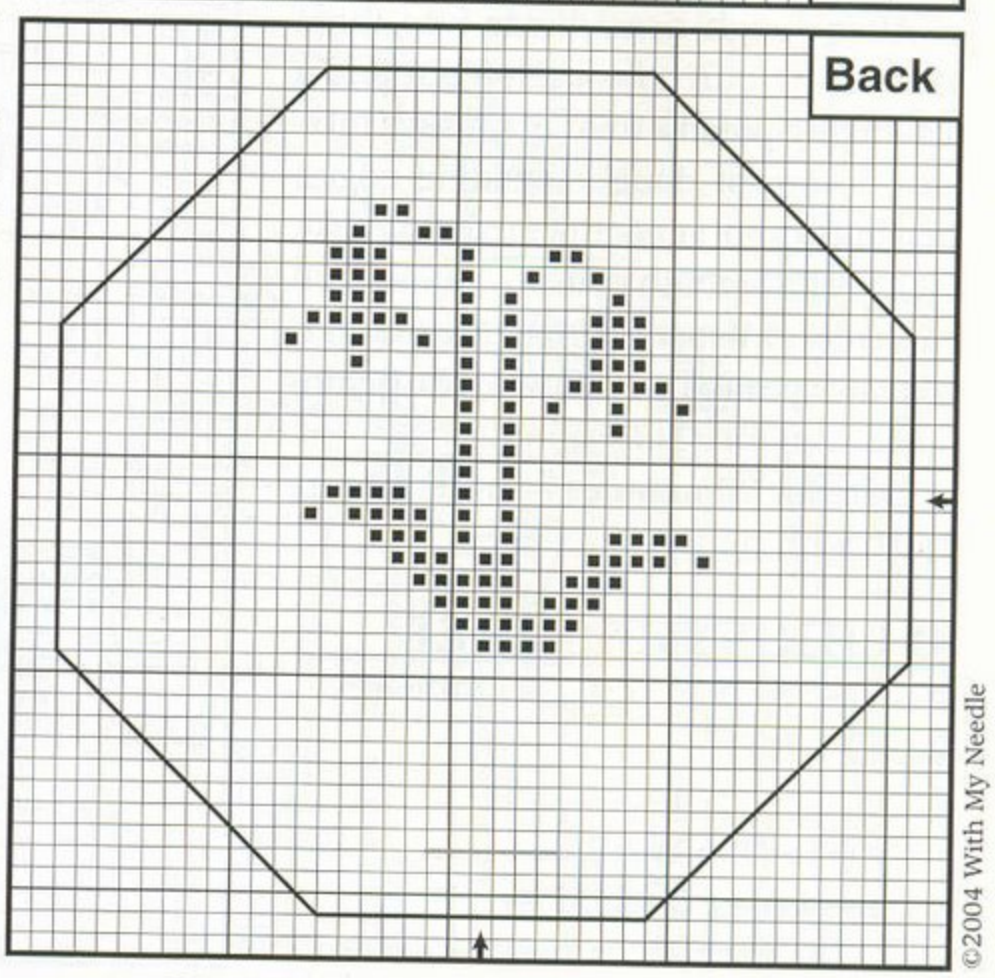

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CHRISTMAS SWAN NEEDLEBOOK

The Workbasket

Candy Scott and Mary Olson

Having lived in The Netherlands for the past six years, we have added local customs to our holiday celebrations. The Dutch celebrate "Sinter Klaus" on December 5. A few weeks earlier, Sint and his helpers, the Zwarte Piets, sail into harbors all around the Netherlands. His grand entrance is usually accompanied by a parade and celebration and much throwing of cookies called "*pepernoten*." Then, Sint and his helpers visit all the children in their schools and other public places. On the eve of Sinter Klaus, children put out their wooden shoes so that Sint can use them to hold their presents. One of the presents is usually a large chocolate initial, representing the child's name. Sint (me?) has even sent these chocolate initials across oceans and seas to my two boys who are studying in Boston and in London.

–Candy Scott

A QUAKER GIFT

Designed by Mary Olson and Candy Scott of The Workbasket

Gloriana Threads Silk Floss

X 035 poinsettia
■ 016 holiday green

Mill Hill Antique Glass Beads

○ 03049 rich red

Charland Designs Inc.
Silver Charm

@ present (green ribbon)

Fabric: 7" x 7" piece 35-count iced cappucino linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 67H x 67W
Design size: 3 7/8" x 3 7/8"

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Attach beads, using one strand 035 and a cross stitch.

Attach charm, using one strand 035.

Finishing instructions: Cut two pieces of dark red felt approximately 1" larger than stitched piece. Cut out center square in one piece of felt 1/4" larger than stitched area, to make frame for stitched piece. Place stitched piece between frame and backing and machine- or hand-stitch just inside frame edge, leaving about 1" open at bottom for stuffing. Stuff with polyfill, then stitch opening closed.

Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC® 815, 890, and 367 six-strand embroidery floss and Kreinik® 002 Very Fine Braid #4. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 53.

Hanger was made using 3/8"-wide coordinating red ribbon.

(Photo is on page 24.)

The Workbasket
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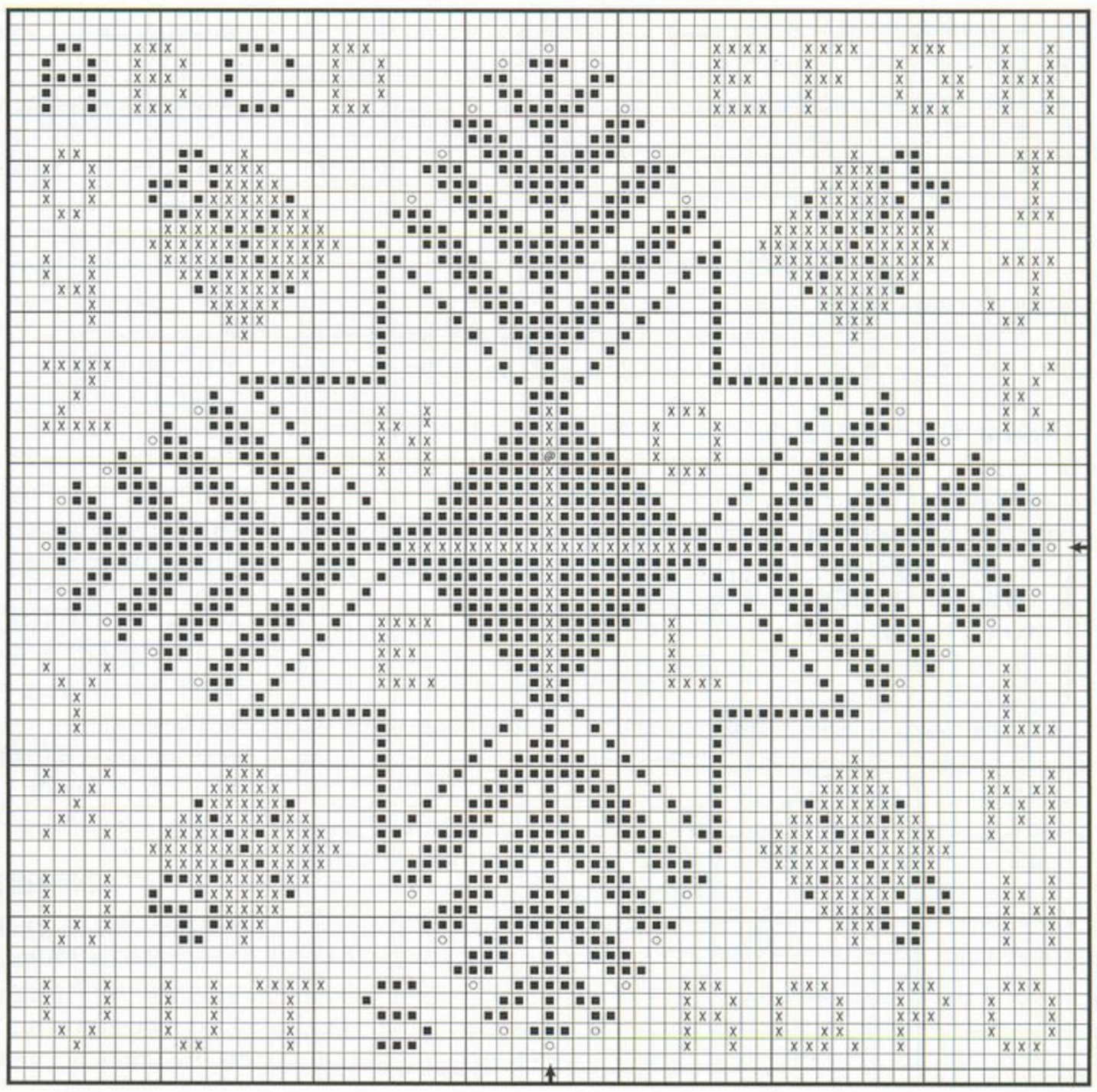
202 S. Broadway, Suite B
Denver, CO 80209-1511
e-mail: workbasket@juno.com



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Where To Find It

Editor's Note: If the supplies needed for projects in this issue are not available at your local needlework shop, contact these sources for a shop in your area that does carry the listed supplies. Please tell these sources that you read about them in *Just CrossStitch® Christmas Ornaments 2004.*

Fabric and Other Stitching Surfaces

Access Commodities, PO Box 1355, Terrell, TX 75160-0023, (972)563-3313, fax: (972)563-3330 **(Legacy Linen)**

Charles Craft, Inc., PO Box 1049, Laurinburg, NC 28353-1049, (800)277-1009,fax:(910)844-9846,e-mail:*email@charlescraft.com*, website: *www.charlescraft.com*

Crossed Wing Collection, E2072 Spencer Lake Rd., Waupaca, UWI 54981, (715) 258-5915; e-mail: *xdwing@execpc.com*, website: *www.crossedwing.com*

The DMC Corporation, S. Hackensack Ave., Port Kearny Bldg. 10F, South Kearny, NJ 07032-4612, (973)589-0606, fax: (973)589-8931, e-mail: rettinger@dmc.fr; website: *www.dmc-usa.com*

Lakeside Linens & Designs, PO Box 165, Clear Lake, WA 98235-0165, (360)428-8688, e-mail: *info@lakesidelinens.safeshopper.com*, website: *lakesidelinens.safeshopper.com*

Norden Crafts Ltd., 502 Morse Ave., Unit K, Schaumburg, IL 60193-4580, (800)323-1252, fax: (847) 891-0976, e-mail: *norden-crafts@ aol.com*, website: *www.nordencrafts.com*

R & R Reproductions, 4265 Derby Wharf Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23456-1467, (757)474-9660, fax: (757)474-4903, e-mail: *wedye4you@aol.com*

Scandinavian Stitches, PO Box 501, Riverside, CT 06878, e-mail: *info@scandinavianstitches.com*, website: *www.scandinavianstitches.com*

Wichelt Imports, Inc., N162 Hwy. 35, Stoddard, WI 54658-9711, (800)356-9516, fax: (608) 788-6040, e-mail: *wichelt@wichelt.com*, website: *www.wichelt.com*

Zweigart®/Joan Toggitt Ltd., 262 Old New Brunswick Rd., Ste. E, Piscataway, NJ 08854-3756, (732)562-8888, fax: (732)562-8866, e-mail: *info@zweigart.com*, website: *www.zweigart.com*

Flosses and Threads

Access Commodities, PO Box 1355, Terrell, TX 75160-0023, (972)563-3313, fax: (972)563-3330 **(Au Ver A Soie® Soie Perlée, Au Ver A Soie® Soie d'Alger, Soie Perlee, Londonderry Linen Thread)**

Anchor®/Coats & Clark, Inc., 4135 S. Stream Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28217, (704)329-5002, fax (704)329-5025, website: *www.coatsandclark.com*

The Caron Collection, 55 Old South Ave., Stratford, CT 06615-7315, (800)862-2766, fax (203)381-9003, e-mail: *mail@caron-net.com*, website: *www.caron-net.com*

Crescent Colours, P.O. Box 91533, Tucson, AZ 85752-1533, (520) 744-0195, e-mail: *sales@crescentcolours.com*, website: *www.crescentcolours.com*

The DMC Corporation, S. Hackensack Ave., Port Kearny Bldg. 10F, South Kearny, NJ 07032-4612, (973)589-0606, fax: (973)589-8931, website: *www.dmc-usa.com*

The Flower Thread Company (Ginnie Thompson Flower Thread), PO Box 3024, Sumter, SC 29151-8724, e-mail: *megastitcher@hotmail.com*, website: *www.flowerthread.com*

The Gentle Art, 4081 Bremo Recess, New Albany, OH 43054-8955, (614)855-8346, fax: (614)855-4298, e-mail: *gentleart@aol.com*, website: *www.thegentleart.com*

Gloriana Threads, 4011 39th Ave., Oakland, CA 94619, (510) 531-8795, fax: (510) 482-9076, e-mail: *gloriana1@earthlink.net, website: glorianathreads.com*

Kreinik Manufacturing Co., Inc., 3106 Lord Baltimore Dr., Ste. 101, Baltimore, MD 21244-5800, (800)624-1928, fax: (410)281-2519, e-mail: *kreinik@kreinik.com*, website: *www.kreinik.com*

Needle Necessities Inc., 7211 Garden Grove Blvd., #BC, Garden Grove, CA 92841, (714) 892-9211, fax: (714) 892-9131, e-mail: *NeedleNec@msn.com*, website: *www.needlenecessities.com*

Needlepoint Inc. Silk, 275 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94108, (800) 345-1622, e-mail: *info@needlepointinc.com*, website: *needlepointinc.com/silk.html*

Olde Willow Stitchery Threads, Inc., 8032 Bellflower Rd., Mentor, OH 44060-4009, (440) 205-1863, fax: (775)361-1407, e-mail: *rlaukhuf@speakeasy.net*, website: *www.oldewillowstitchery.com*

Rainbow Gallery, 7412 Fulton Ave. #5, North Hollywood, CA 91605-4154, (800)522-6827, fax: (818)982-1476, e-mail: *info@rainbowgallery.com*, website: *www.rainbowgallery.com*

Scandinavian Stitches, PO Box 501, Riverside, CT 06878, e-mail: *info@scandinavianstitches.com*, website: *www.scandinavianstitches.com* **(Danish Flower Thread)**

The Thread Gatherer, 2108 Norcrest, Boise, ID 83705-4876, (208)387-2641, fax: (208)387-1251, e-mail: *threadgath@aol.com*, website: *www.threadgatherer.com*

Weeks Dye Works, 1510-103 Mechanical Blvd., Garner, NC 27529-2564, (877)683-7393, fax: (919)772-8757, e-mail: contact@*weeksdyeworks com*, website: *www.weeksdyeworks.com*

Beads, Buttons, Charms, and Other Stitching Supplies

Adam Original, 9122 Cottonwood Ln., Maple Grove, MN 55369-3902, (800) 562-2326, fax: (763) 425-7620, e-mail: *inez@adamoriginal.com*, website: *www.adamoriginal.com*

Berwick Offray, LLC, 9th and Bomboy Lane, Berwick, PA 18603, (800) 327-0350

Fiddlestitch Cottage, 314 Albert St., Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 2B6, Canada, (506) 450-9428, e-mail *fiddlest@nb.sympatico.ca*

Gay Bowles Sales-Mill Hill, PO Box 1060, Janesville, WI 53547-1060, (608)754-9466, fax: (608)754-0665, e-mail: *jerry@inwave.com;* website: *www.millhill.com*

JHB International, Inc., 1955 S. Quince St., Denver, CO 80231-3206, (800)525-9007, fax: (303)752-0608, e-mail: *sales@buttons.com*, website: *www.buttons.com*

Just Another Button Co., 116 W. Market St., Troy, IL 62294-1412, (618)667-8531, fax: (618)667-8504, e-mail: *jmi@mindspring.com*, website: *www.justanotherbuttoncompany.com*

Kunin Felt/Foss Manufacturing Co., 380 Lafayette Rd., Hampton, NH 03840-5000, (603)929-6100, fax: (603)929-6180, e-mail: *kuninfelt@fossmfg.com*, website: *www.kuninfelt.com*

"In A Manger" sterling silver star charm available for $8.00 plus $2.00 shipping and handling from **Shepherd's Bush Printworks**, 220 24th St., Ogden, UT 84401-1403, (801)399-4546, fax: (801)399-5097, website: *www.shepherdsbush.net*

Stitcher's Station, 106 E. Wood St., Hillsboro, IL 62049, (217) 532-5984

Weeks Dye Works, 1510-103 Mechanical Blvd., Garner, NC 27529-2564, (877)683-7393, fax: (919)772-8757, e-mail: contact@*weeksdyeworks com*, website: *www.weeksdyeworks.com*

Needlework Finishing Services

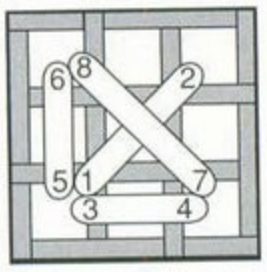
Expressions in Needleart (Brightneedle), (585) 394-4870

It's Fine-ally Finished (Glory Bee and With My Needle), website: *www.itsfineallyfinished.com*

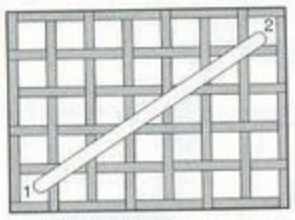
Magic by Mona (Full Circle Designs), e-mail: *mgbost4@cox.net*

Sew It Seams Custom Needlework Finishing (Heart In Hand), (513) 576-0201

Stitch Illustrations

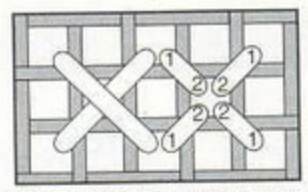


ARROWHEAD CROSS STITCH

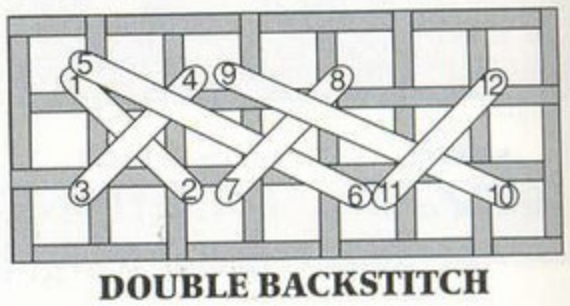


STRAIGHT STITCH

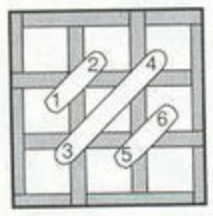
CROSS STITCH OVER ONE



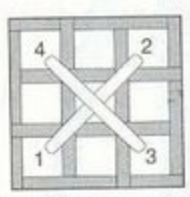
QUARTER STITCH



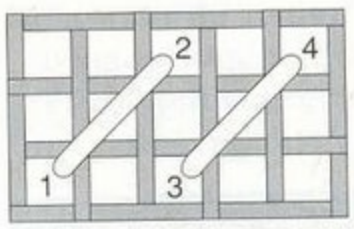
DOUBLE BACKSTITCH



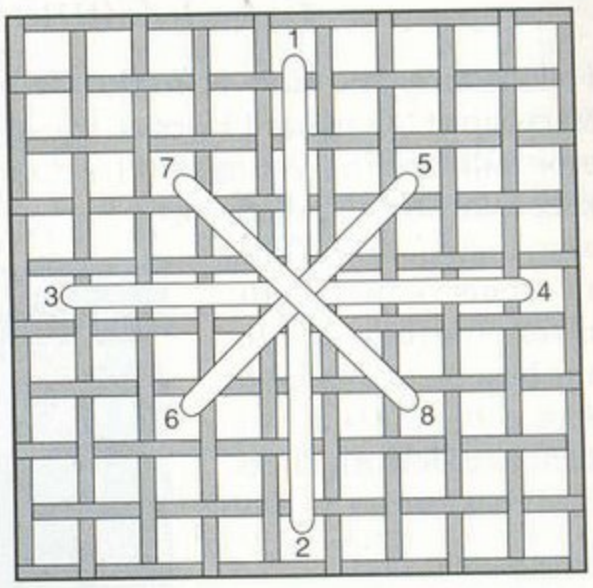
MOSAIC STITCH



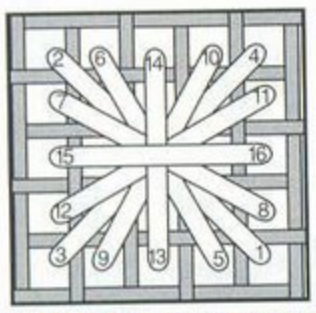
CROSS STITCH OVER TWO



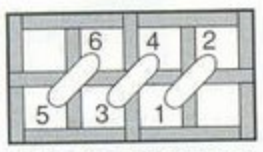
HALF CROSS STITCH (OVER TWO)



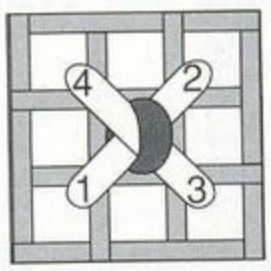
STAR STITCH (OVER EIGHT)



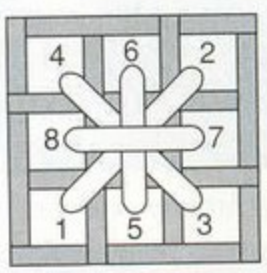
DOUBLE LEVIATHAN STITCH



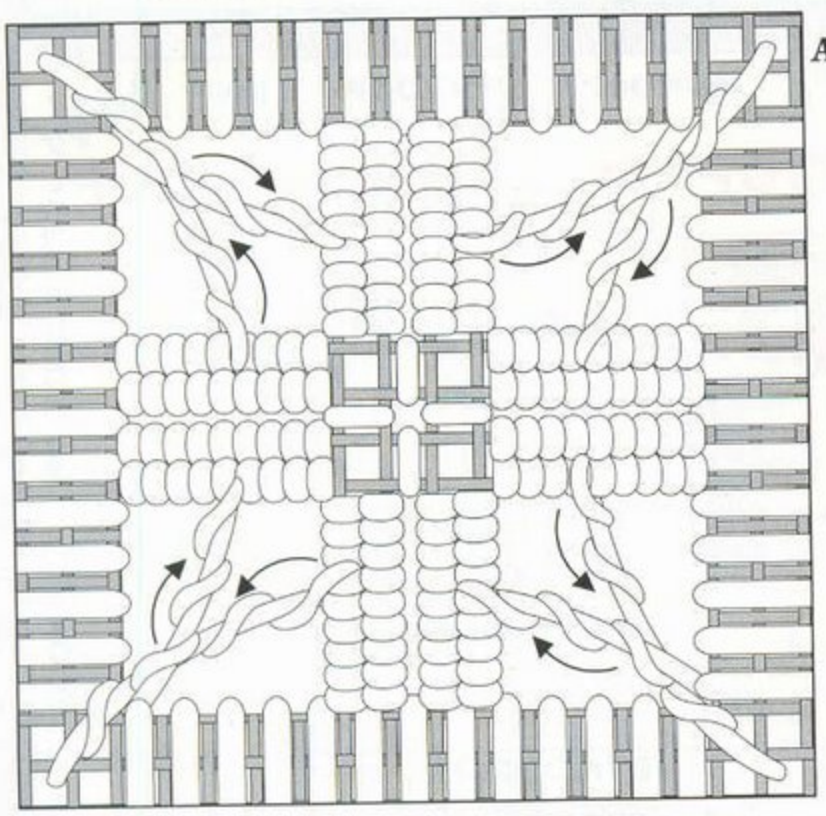
TENT STITCH



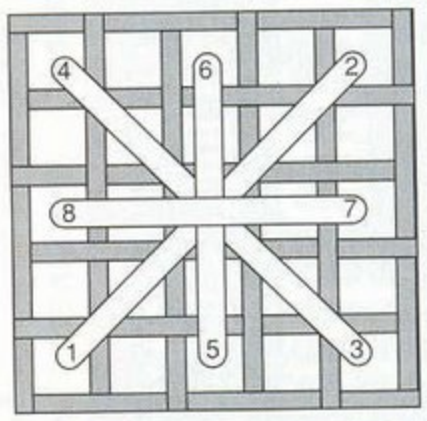
ATTACHING A BEAD WITH A CROSS STITCH



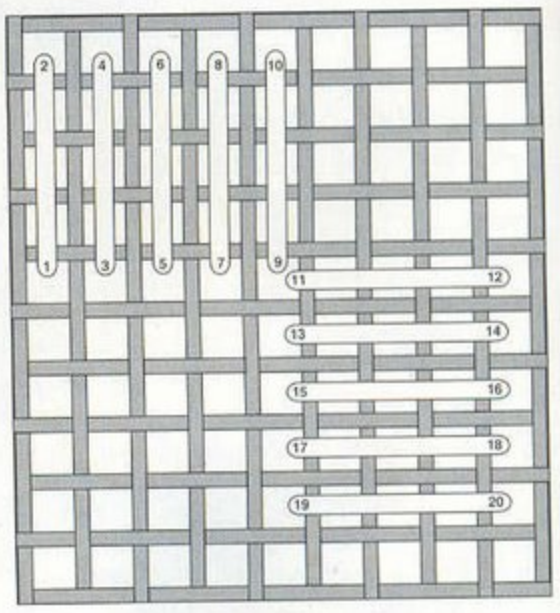
SMYRNA CROSS STITCH (OVER TWO)



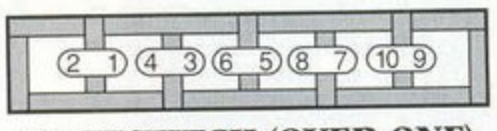
CINDY VALENTINE DESIGNS



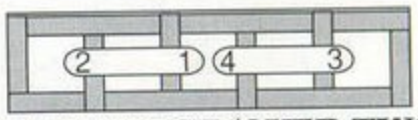
SMYRNA CROSS STITCH (OVER FOUR)



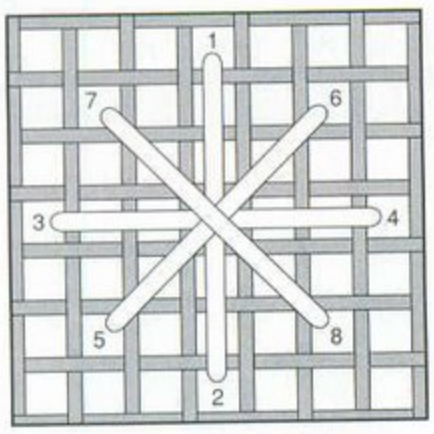
KLOSTER BLOCKS



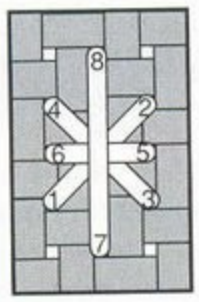
BACKSTITCH (OVER ONE)



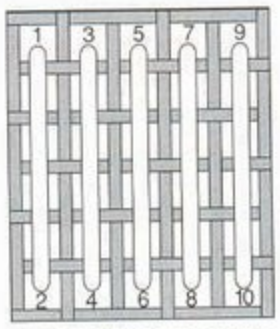
BACKSTITCH (OVER TWO)



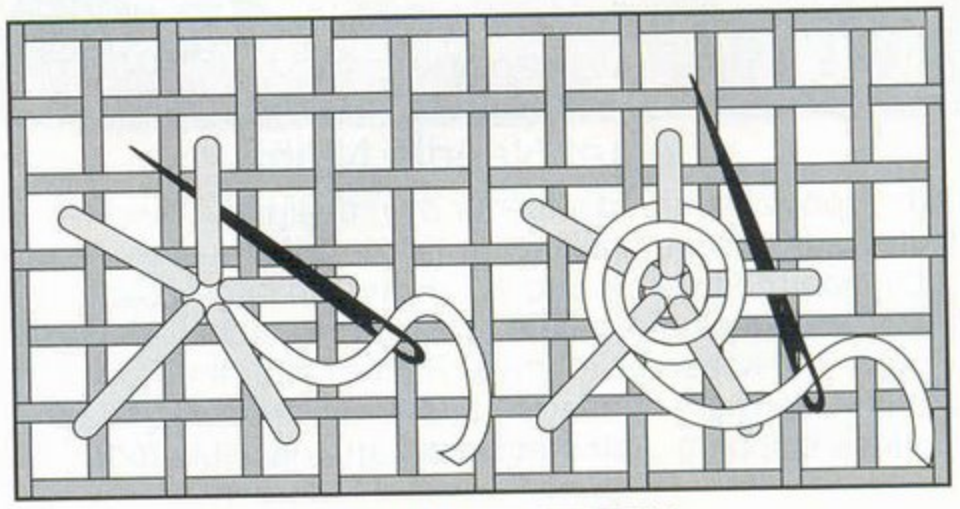
STAR STITCH– ELIZABETH'S DESIGNS



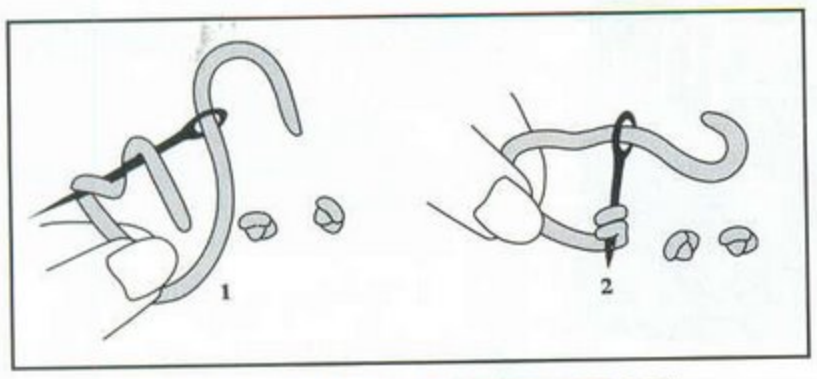
STAR STITCH– CHARLETTE'S COLLECTIBLES



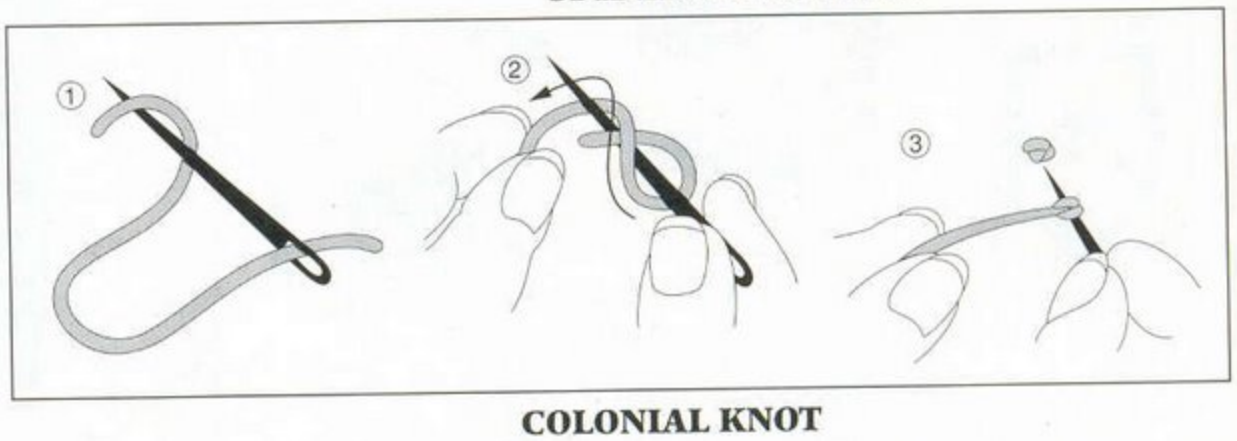
SATIN STITCH



SPIDERWEB STITCH



FRENCH KNOT (ONE WRAP)

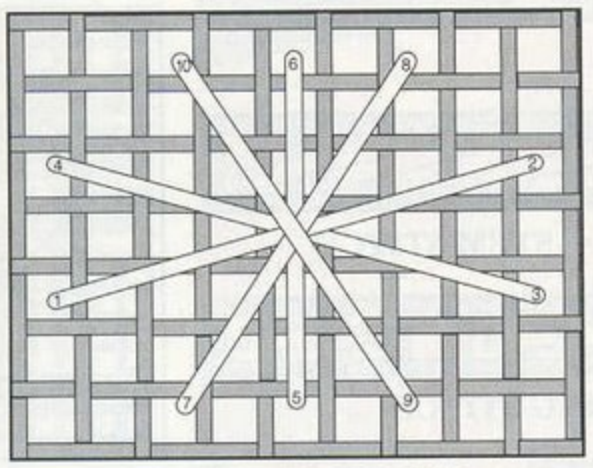


COLONIAL KNOT

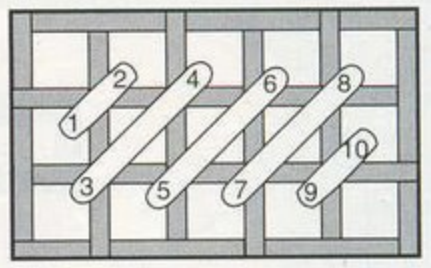
Stitch Illustrations

CHAIN STITCH

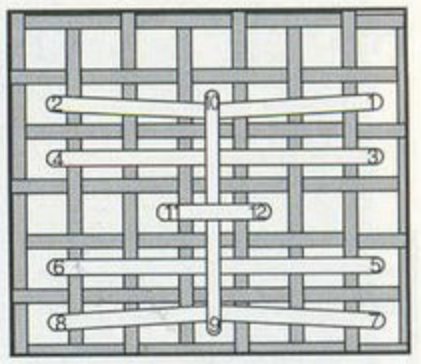
DIAGONAL ELONGATED SMYRNA CROSS STITCH



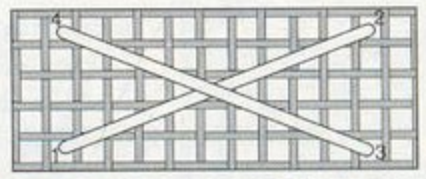
ROUNDED OBLONG LEVIATHAN STITCH



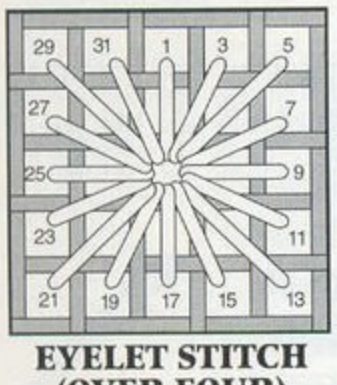
CASHMERE STITCH



MODIFIED ROMAN STITCH

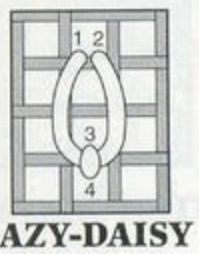


OBLONG CROSS STITCH– JEANNETTE DOUGLAS DESIGNS

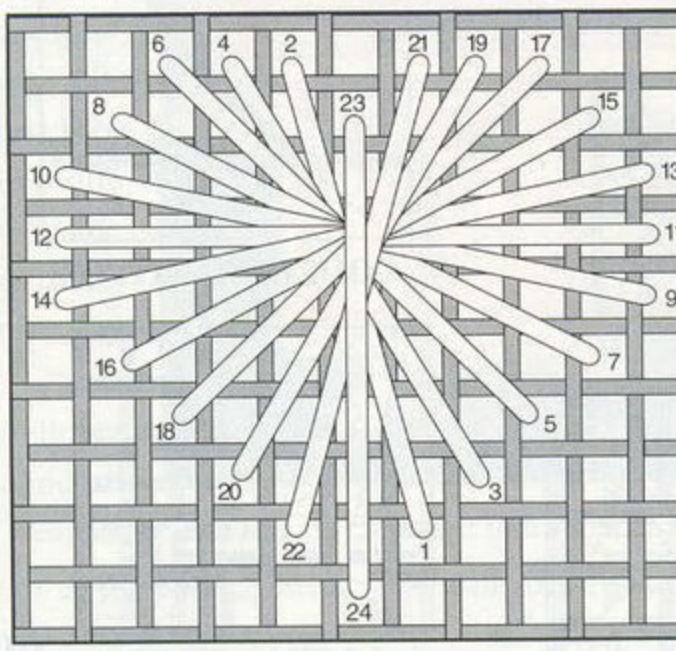


EYELET STITCH (OVER FOUR)

FLY STITCH

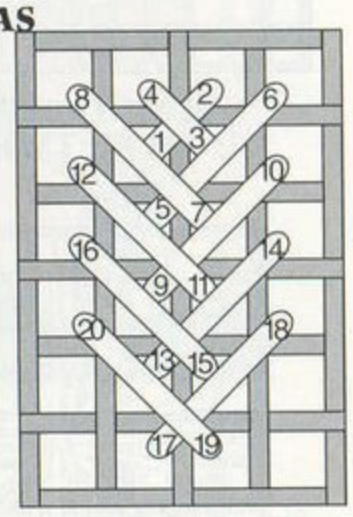


LAZY-DAISY STITCH

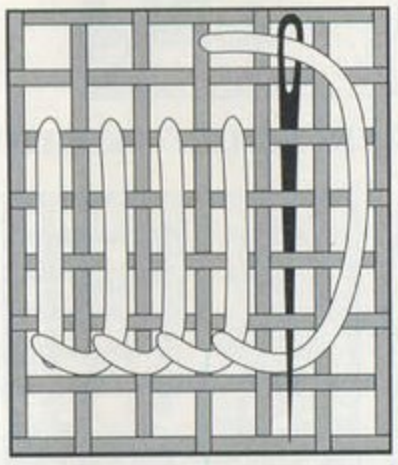


RHODES-HEART STITCH

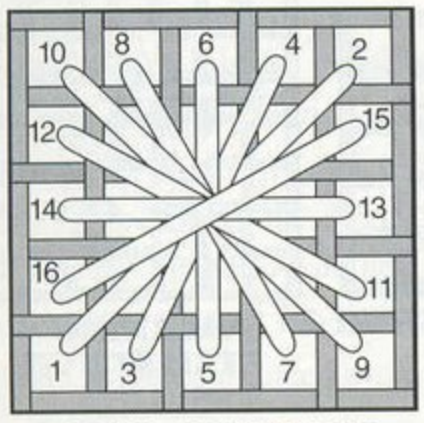
DIAGONAL SATIN STITCH



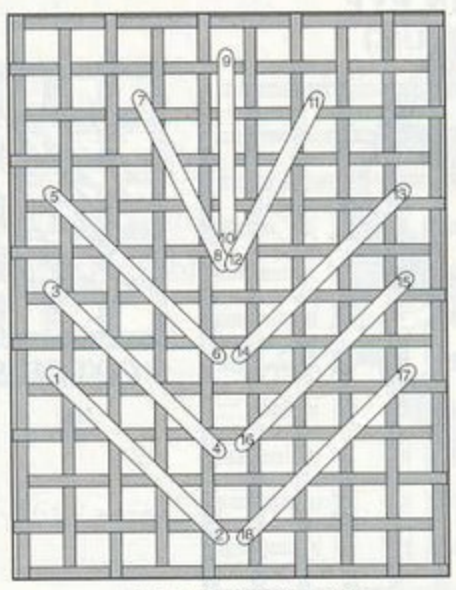
FERN STITCH



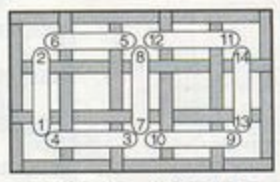
BUTTONHOLE STITCH



RHODES STITCH (OVER FOUR)

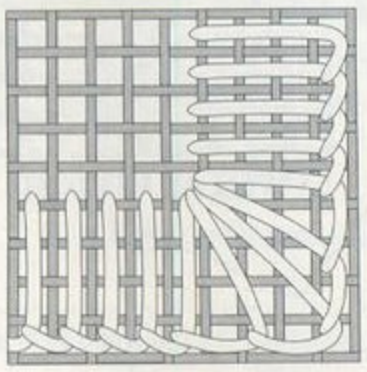


LEAF STITCH (ELIZABETH'S DESIGNS)

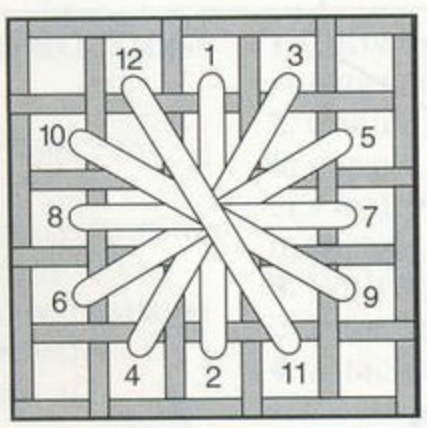


FOUR-SIDED STITCH

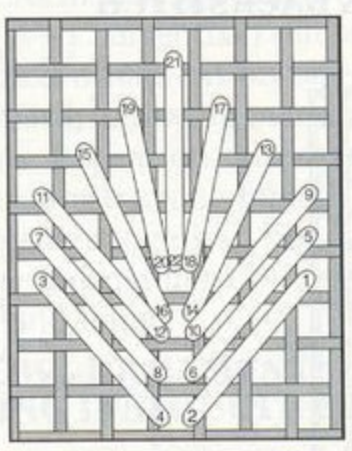
BASKETWEAVE STITCH



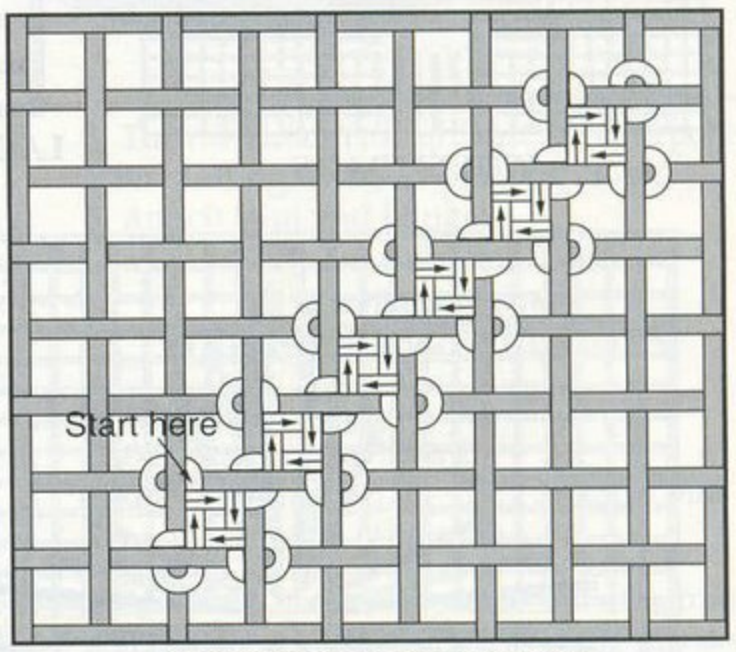
BUTTONHOLE STITCH TURNING CORNER



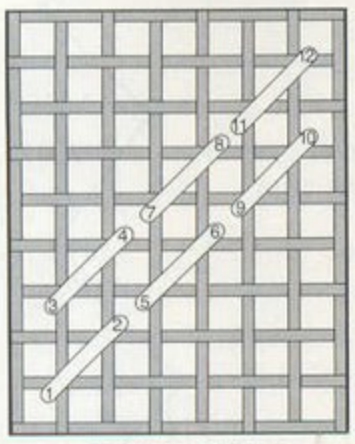
ROUNDED RHODES STITCH (OVER FOUR)



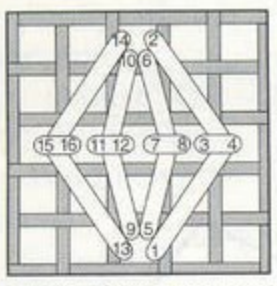
LEAF STITCH (PATRICIA ANN DESIGNS)



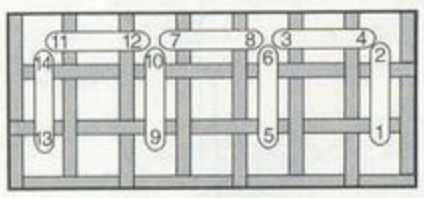
MALTESE INTERLACING



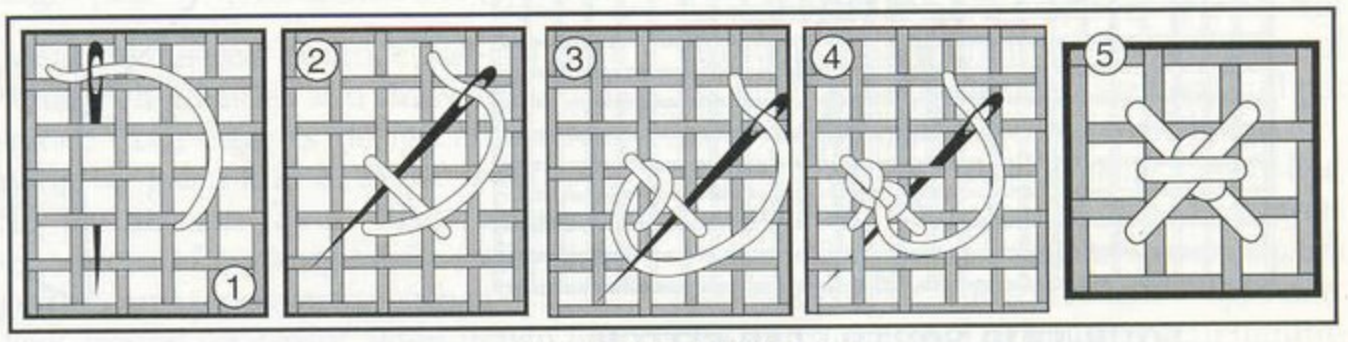
DIAGONAL CABLE STITCH



QUEEN STITCH

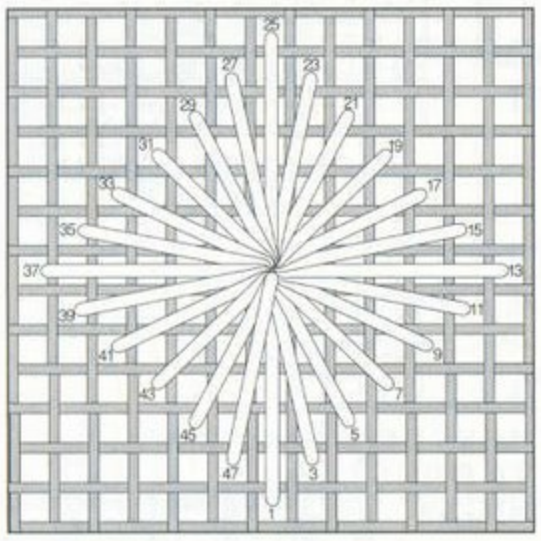


HEM STITCH

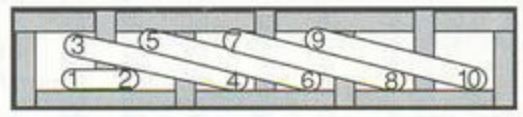


PALESTRINA KNOT

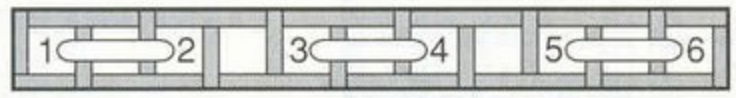
Stitch Illustrations



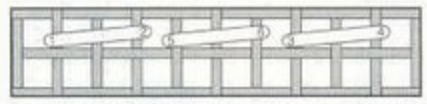
DIAMOND EYELET (OVER TWELVE)



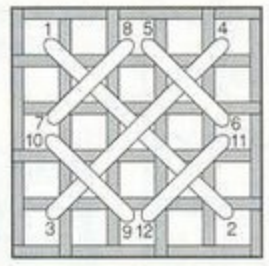
STEM STITCH



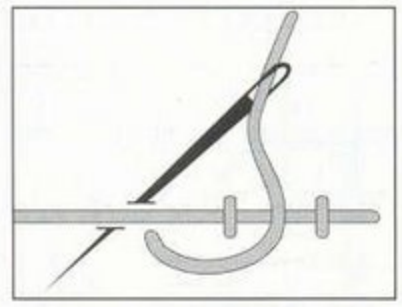
RUNNING STITCH



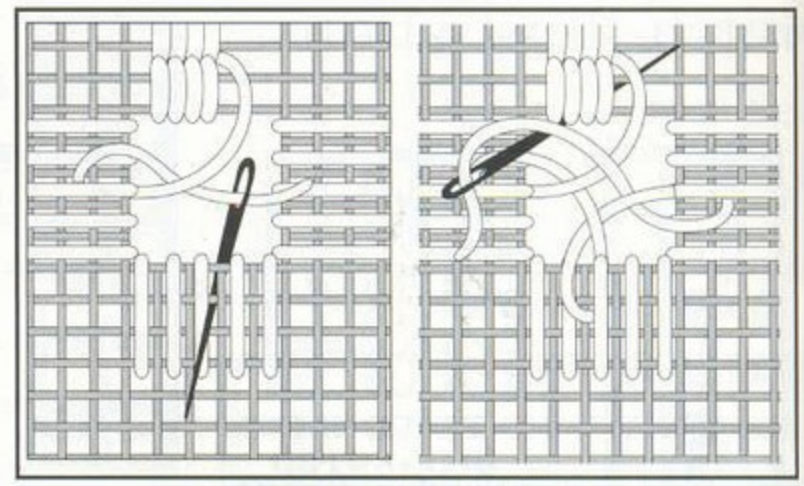
DOUBLE RUNNING STITCH



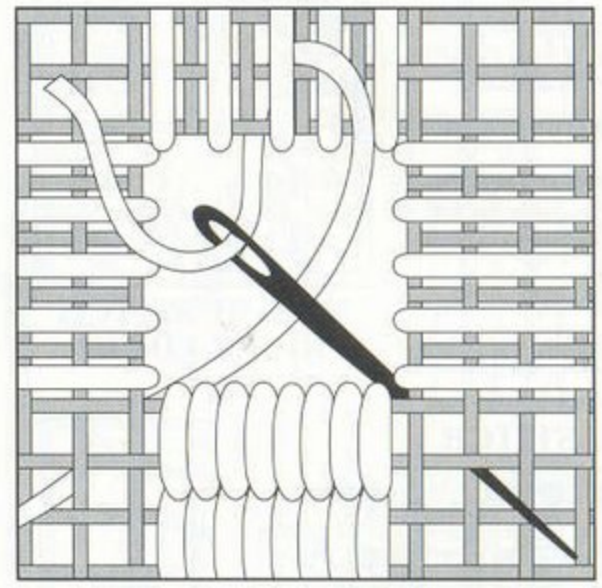
RICE STITCH



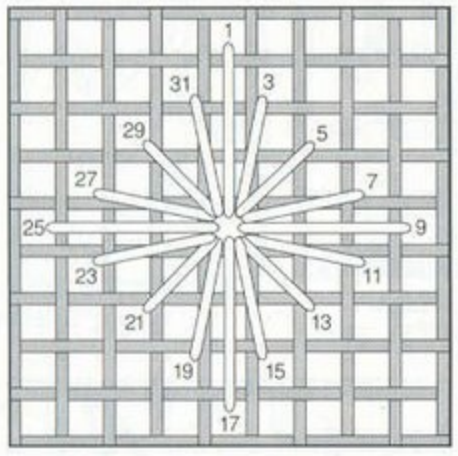
COUCHING STITCH



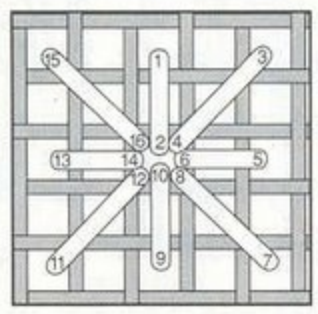
DOVE'S EYE (CENTER WEB)–NORDIC NEEDLE



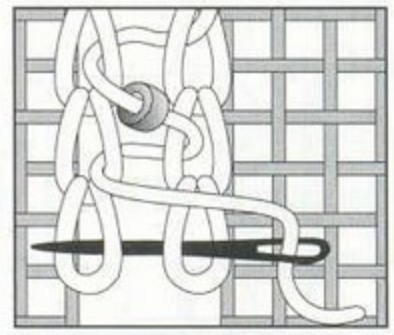
OUTER WEB STITCH–NORDIC NEEDLE



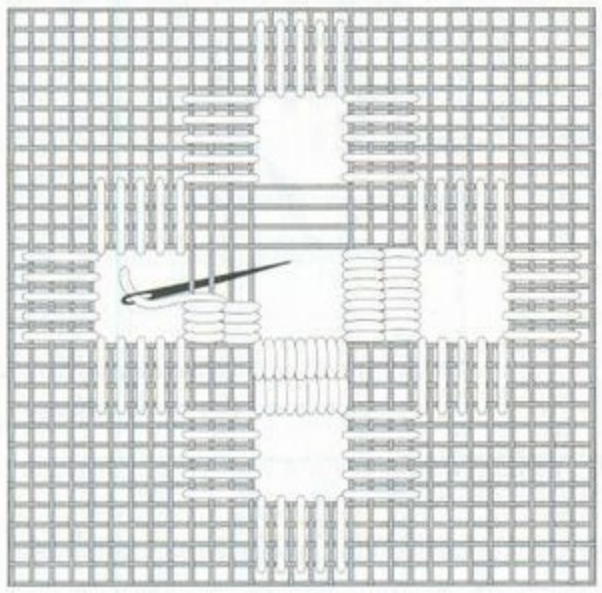
DIAMOND EYELET (OVER EIGHT)



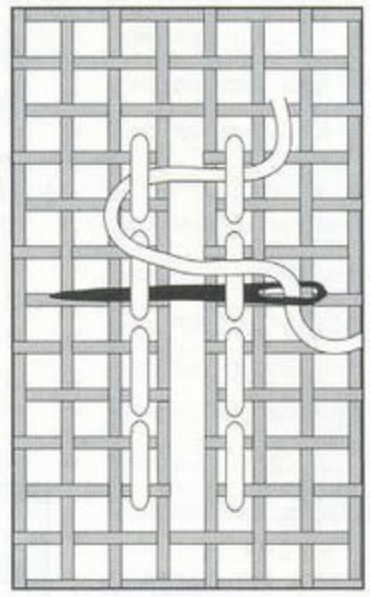
ALGERIAN EYE (OVER FOUR)



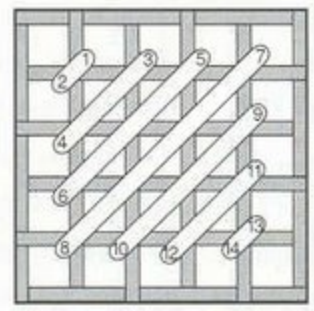
LACING CHAIN STITCH WITH BEADS



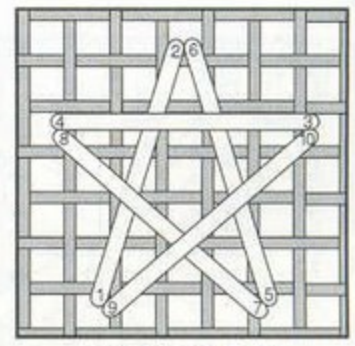
WOVEN BARS



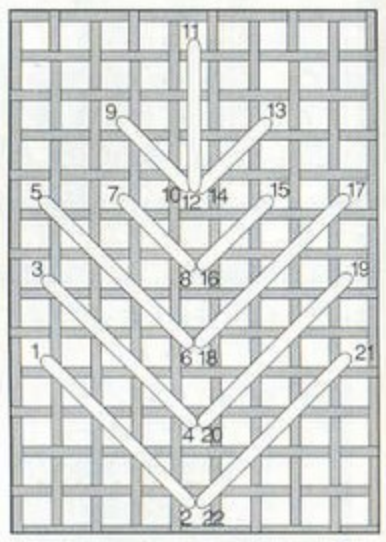
LACING BACKSTITCH



SCOTCH STITCH

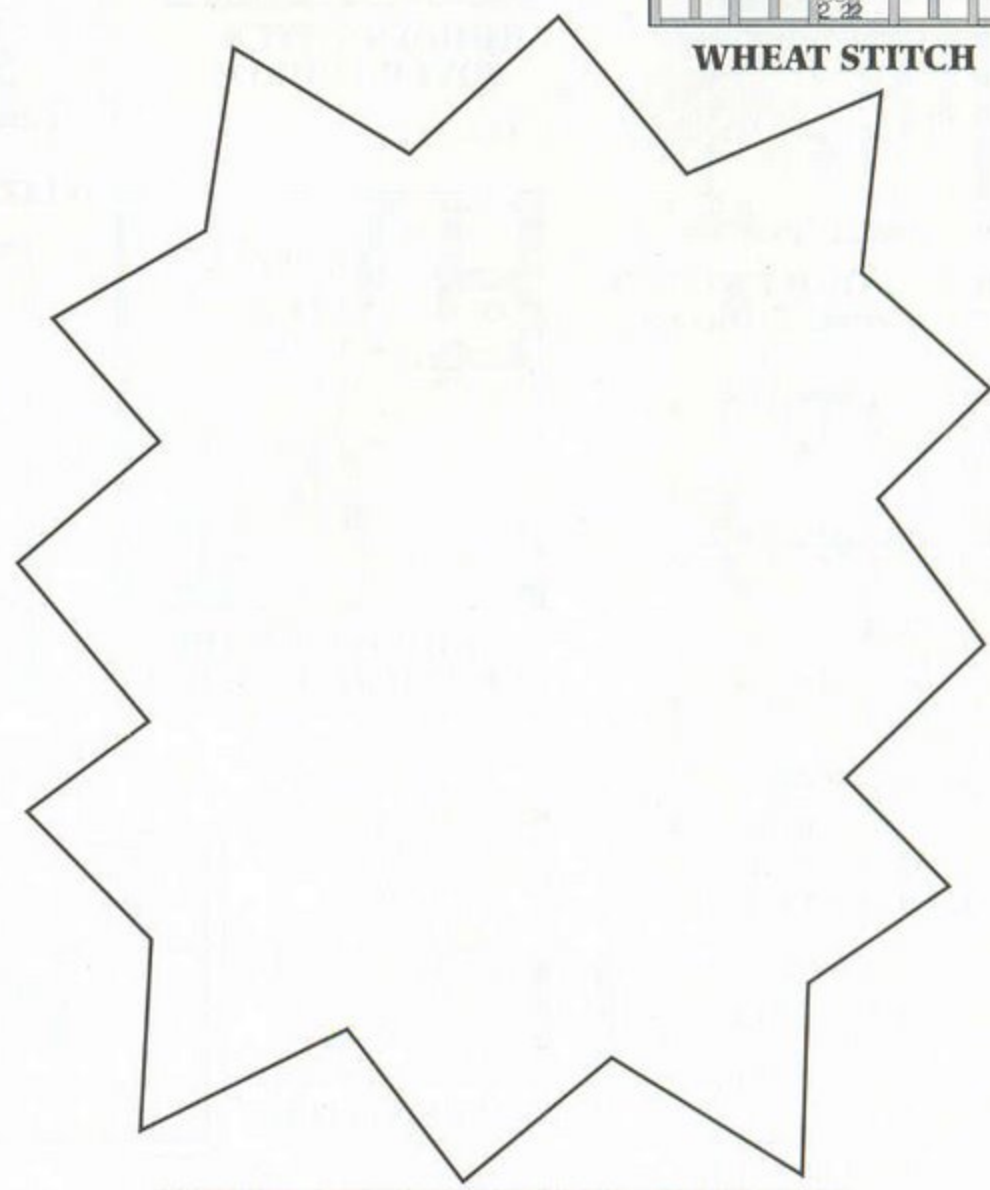


DARNING STAR STITCH



WHEAT STITCH

FOUR-TRIP NORTH STAR STITCH



THE PRAIRIE SCHOOLER TEMPLATE

Thistle Threads

Historically Inspired Needleart

The French Monogram set of needlework necessities includes a reproduction of a 19th century reticule from the designer's own collection. Luscious double-sided satin silk ribbon was used extensively on this project to complement the large and small coordinating silk check. The set includes a pin pad, scissors fob, thimble nest, and thread keep, all fitting inside the drawstring reticule. Close-ups and inside views are available on our website. While there, you can also download a sample of our quality instructions.

The kit contains 36-count hand-dyed linen, silk floss, Thread Gatherer silk ribbon, and all specialty finishing materials. Hannah's Treasures has made an exclusive bandbox to accompany your set.

Simply send *$85 plus $8 S&H* for the kit to the address below. The toile bandbox can be purchased for an additional *$45*. Credit card sales via website only.

A Tiny German Folk Slipper featured in this issue, can be a companion piece to the *French Monogram* set. To help you get the same look as our example slipper, a finishing kit is available. The kit includes die cut forms, batt, and skirtex as well as matching check silk fabric and floss for twisted cord.

As an added benefit for readers of *Just Cross Stitch*, detailed step-by-step photographs of the finishing procedure of the slipper are now available on our website to make this project a breeze to complete.

For a finishing kit, simply send *$15 plus $3 S&H*. Please indicate whether you need a kit for a 32 count or 36 count sized project.

6 Upland Road West • Arlington, MA 02474 • 781-646-9652 voice
thistlethreads@comcast.net • www.thistle-threads.com

GENERAL FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Cording or trim (**NOTE:** See Step 2 to determine length.)
Backing fabric to complement cross stitch
Thread to match fabrics or trim
Hand-sewing needle Tape measure
Ruler Steam iron Scissors
Transparent fabric glue (optional)

1. Press stitched piece from back. **NOTE:** Some threads cannot be ironed with steam.
2. Measure circumference of finished ornament and add 8" for hanger to this measurement to determine the length of cording or trim for each ornament.
3. When attaching cording, secure cut ends with stitches or fabric glue. Blind stitch cording to ornament, using sewing thread and concealing cut ends.

ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Self-adhesive padded mounting board
Hot-glue gun or craft glue (optional)

1. Cut two pieces of mounting board to desired ornament size (⅛"–1" larger than stitching).
2. Center stitched ornament on one piece of mounting board, following manufacturer's instructions. Repeat on other piece of mounting board for backing fabric.
3. With wrong sides together, blind stitch or glue backing to ornament.
4. Attach trim and hanger.

PILLOW-ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Polyester stuffing Fabric-marking pencil
Straight pins Sewing machine (optional)

1. Measure desired distance (⅛"–1") from stitching on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grain-line of fabric when possible. Do **not** cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together.
2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving an opening at bottom for turning. Trim all layers to seam allowances of ¼". Trim corners to seam allowances of ⅛".
3. Turn ornament to right side, fill with polyester stuffing, and sew opening closed.
4. Attach trim and hanger.

FLAT-ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Padded mounting board
Fabric-marking pencil Straight pins
Sewing machine (optional)

1. Measure desired distance (⅛"–1") from stitching on all sides and draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grain-line of fabric when possible. Do **not** cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together along edge of stitching.
2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving bottom of ornament open. Trim layers to seam allowances of ¼". Trim corners to seam allowances of ⅛". Turn ornament to right side.
3. Using ornament as a pattern, cut mounting board. Insert mounting board into ornament and sew opening closed.
4. Attach trim and hanger.